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STATEMENT



I, Yukio KAWAHARA—of ARK Mori Building, 13F, 12-32, Akasaka 1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-6013 Japan—hereby declare that I am conversant in both Japanese and English and that I believe the following is true and correct translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-157367.

Date: June 24, 2004



Yukio KAWAHARA

[Designation of Document] Specification

[Title of the Invention] POSITIVE PHOTSENSITIVE COMPOSITION

[Claims]

[Claim 1] A positive photosensitive composition comprising:

(A) an acid generator capable of generating an acid upon irradiation with one of an actinic ray and a radiation;

(B) a resin: having a monocyclic or polycyclic alicyclic hydrocarbon structure; and being capable of decomposing by the action of an acid to increase the solubility in an alkali developer;

(C) a basic compound; and

(D) a surfactant containing at least one of a fluorine atom and a silicon atom;

wherein the acid generator (A) comprises at least one compound having a phenacylsulfonium salt structure and at least one sulfonium salt compound not having an aromatic ring.

2. The positive photosensitive composition as claimed in claim 1, which comprises (E) a solvent mixture including:

a solvent containing a hydroxyl group; and

a solvent not containing a hydroxyl group.

3. The positive photosensitive composition as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the basic compound (C) includes a compound having at least one structure selected from the group consisting of an imidazole structure, a diazabicyclo structure, an onium

hydroxide structure, an onium carboxylate structure and an aniline structure.

4. The positive photosensitive composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, which further comprises (F) a low molecular weight dissolution-inhibiting compound having: a molecular weight of 3,000 or less; and a group capable of decomposing by the action of an acid to increase the solubility in an alkali developer.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[Technical Field to which the Invention Belongs]

The present invention relates to a positive photosensitive composition for use in the manufacturing process of a semiconductor such as IC, in the manufacture of a circuit board for a liquid crystal device or a thermal head, and in the process of other photofabrication, more specifically relates to a positive photosensitive composition which is preferred when far ultraviolet rays having a wavelength of 250 nm or less are used as exposure light sources.

[Conventional Art]

Chemical amplification positive resist compositions are materials for forming patterns on substrates, i.e., these compositions generate acids by irradiation with radiations, such as far ultraviolet rays, on the irradiated areas and undergo reaction utilizing these acids as a catalyst. This reaction

causes a difference in solubilities in a developing solution between the irradiated area and non-irradiated area with the actinic radiations, thereby enabling pattern formation.

When KrF excimer laser is used as an exposure light source, compositions mainly comprising a resin having a fundamental skeleton of poly(hydroxystyrene) which is small in absorption in wavelength region of 248 nm are used, therefore high sensitivity, high resolution and good pattern forming can be ensured as compared with the cases where conventional naphthoquinonediazide/novolac series resins are used.

However, when light sources having further shorter wavelength, e.g., an ArF excimer laser (193 nm), are used, since compounds having an aromatic group fundamentally have large absorption in wavelength region of 193 nm, even chemical amplification resist compositions are not sufficient.

The use of poly(meth)acrylate is described in J. Vac. Sci. Technol., B9, 3357 (1991) as a polymer having small absorption in wavelength region of 193 nm, however, this polymer is inferior to conventional phenolic resins having an aromatic group in resistance to dry etching generally performed in semiconductor manufacturing process.

A mixed acid generator comprising a specific sulfonium salt (an anion having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms) and a triarylsulfonium salt is disclosed in JP-A-00-292917 (the term "JP-A" as used herein means an "unexamined published Japanese patent application"), combination of a triphenylsulfonium salt

of a perfluoroalkane sulfonic acid having from 4 to 8 carbon atoms and 2-alkyl-2-adamantyl (meth)acrylate is disclosed in JP-A-00-275845, and a mixed acid generator comprising a specific sulfonium salt (an anion having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms) and a triphenylsulfonium salt or iodonium salt of perfluoroalkane sulfonic acid having from 4 to 8 carbon atoms is disclosed in EP-A-1041442.

For coping with finer pattern-making, a transformed illumination method or a phase-shift mask is generally used, zonal illumination is used for a line-and-space pattern, and a half tone phase shift mask is used for a contact hole pattern in many cases.

It has been desired to obtain broad defocus latitude when zonal illumination is used. "Wide defocus latitude" means that the fluctuation of line width by the shift of focus is small.

When a half tone phase shift mask is used, there is a problem of a side lobe caused by the dissolution of a pattern part with a trace amount of transmitted light, and the solution of this problem has been desired.

Further, p-hydroxystyrene resin for use in a KrF excimer laser resist interacts with an acid generator, in particular, an ionic compound, e.g., an onium salt, and improves the solubility of the acid generator, however, a resin having an acyclic hydrocarbon structure is very high in hydrophobicity and the interaction with an ionic compound such as an onium salt is difficult to occur. As a result, the solubility of an acid generator becomes

low, resulting in the problem of particles being liable to be generated during storage of a resist solution.

[Problems that the Invention is to Solve]

Accordingly, a object of the present invention is to provide a positive photosensitive composition capable of providing a broad defocus latitude when zonal illumination is used, hardly generating side lobe in pattern-forming using a half tone phase shift mask, and further hardly generating particles during storage.

[Means for Solving the Problems]

The positive photosensitive compositions having the following constitutions are provided as the embodiments of the present invention, thereby the above objects of the present invention have be achieved.

(1) A positive photosensitive composition comprising:

(A) an acid generator capable of generating an acid upon irradiation with one of an actinic ray and a radiation;

(B) a resin: having a monocyclic or polycyclic alicyclic hydrocarbon structure; and being capable of decomposing by the action of an acid to increase the solubility in an alkali developer;

(C) a basic compound; and

(D) a surfactant containing at least one of a fluorine atom and a silicon atom;

wherein the acid generator (A) comprises at least one

compound having a phenacylsulfonium salt structure and at least one sulfonium salt compound not having an aromatic ring.

(2) The positive photosensitive composition as described in (1), which comprises (E) a solvent mixture including:

a solvent containing a hydroxyl group; and
a solvent not containing a hydroxyl group.

(3) The positive photosensitive composition as described in (1) or (2), wherein the basic compound (C) includes a compound having at least one structure selected from the group consisting of an imidazole structure, a diazabicyclo structure, an onium hydroxide structure, an onium carboxylate structure and an aniline structure.

(4) The positive photosensitive composition as described in any one of (1) to (3), which further comprises (F) a low molecular weight dissolution-inhibiting compound having: a molecular weight of 3,000 or less; and a group capable of decomposing by the action of an acid to increase the solubility in an alkali developer.

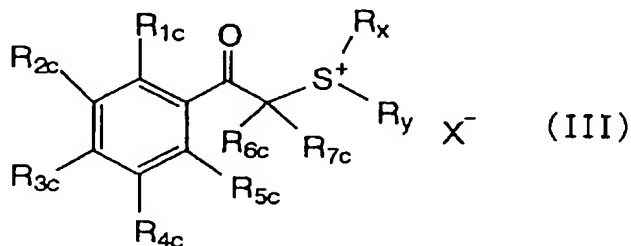
[Mode for Carrying Out the Invention]

(A) Acid Generator

The acid generator for use in the present invention is capable of generating an acid upon irradiation with one of an actinic ray and a radiation, which is a mixture comprising at least one compound having a phenacylsulfonium salt structure

and at least one sulfonium salt compound not having an aromatic ring (hereinafter referred to as "component (A)" or "acid generator").

The compound having a phenacylsulfonium salt structure capable of generating an acid upon irradiation with an actinic ray or a radiation is, e.g., a compound represented by the following formula (III):



wherein R_{1c} , R_{2c} , R_{3c} , R_{4c} and R_{5c} each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxyl group or a halogen atom; R_{6c} and R_{7c} each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group; and R_x and R_y each represents an alkyl group, a 2-oxoalkyl group, an alkoxycarbonylmethyl group, an allyl group or a vinyl group.

Two or more of R_{1c} , R_{2c} , R_{3c} , R_{4c} , R_{5c} , R_{6c} and R_{7c} , and R_x and R_y may be bonded to form a cyclic structure, and the cyclic structure may contain an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, an ester bond, or an amide bond.

X^- represents an anion of a sulfonic acid, a carboxylic

acid or a sulfonylimide.

The alkyl group represented by R_{1c} , R_{2c} , R_{3c} , R_{4c} and R_{5c} may be straight chain, branched or cyclic, e.g., an alkyl group having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, preferably a straight chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms (e.g., methyl, ethyl, straight chain or branched propyl, straight chain or branched butyl, and straight chain or branched pentyl), and a cyclic alkyl group having from 3 to 8 carbon atoms (e.g., cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl) can be exemplified.

The alkoxyl group represented by R_{1c} , R_{2c} , R_{3c} , R_{4c} and R_{5c} may be straight chain, branched or cyclic, e.g., an alkoxyl group having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, preferably a straight chain or branched alkoxyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms (e.g., methoxy, ethoxy, straight chain or branched propoxy, straight chain or branched butoxy and straight chain or branched pentoxy), and a cyclic alkoxyl group having from 3 to 8 carbon atoms (e.g., cyclopentyloxy and cyclohexyloxy) can be exemplified.

Preferably any of R_{1c} , R_{2c} , R_{3c} , R_{4c} and R_{5c} represents a straight chain, branched or cyclic alkyl group, or a straight chain, branched or cyclic alkoxyl group, more preferably the sum of the carbon atoms of R_{1c} , R_{2c} , R_{3c} , R_{4c} and R_{5c} is from 2 to 15, by which the solubility in a solvent is improved and the generation of particles during storage can be inhibited.

As the alkyl groups represented by R_{6c} and R_{7c} , the same alkyl groups as represented by R_{1c} , R_{2c} , R_{3c} , R_{4c} and R_{5c} can be exemplified. As the aryl groups represented by R_{6c} and R_{7c} , e.g.,

an aryl group having from 6 to 14 carbon atoms (e.g., phenyl) can be exemplified.

As the alkyl groups represented by R_x and R_y , the same alkyl groups as represented by R_{1c} , R_{2c} , R_{3c} , R_{4c} and R_{5c} can be exemplified.

As the 2-oxoalkyl groups represented by R_x and R_y , the same alkyl groups as represented by R_{1c} , R_{2c} , R_{3c} , R_{4c} and R_{5c} and having C=O on the 2-position can be exemplified.

As the alkoxy groups in the alkoxy carbonylmethyl group represented by R_x and R_y , the same alkoxy groups as defined in R_{1c} , R_{2c} , R_{3c} , R_{4c} and R_{5c} can be exemplified.

As the groups formed by bonding of R_x and R_y , a butylene group and a pentylene group can be exemplified.

The stereostructure of the compound represented by formula (III) is fixed by forming a ring, as a result, photo-decomposing property is improved. When two of R_{1c} , R_{2c} , R_{3c} , R_{4c} , R_{5c} , R_{6c} and R_{7c} are bonded to form a cyclic structure, the case where any one of R_{1c} , R_{2c} , R_{3c} , R_{4c} and R_{5c} and any one of R_{6c} and R_{7c} are bonded to form a single bond or a linking group and form a ring is preferred, and the case where R_{5c} and one of R_{6c} and R_{7c} are bonded to form a single bond or a linking group and form a ring is particularly preferred.

The examples of the linking groups include an alkylene group which may have a substituent, an alkenylene group which may have a substituent, -O-, -S-, -CO-, -CONR- (where R represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an acyl group), and the groups

consisting of two of these groups, preferably an alkylene group which may have a substituent, an alkylene group containing an oxygen atom which may have a substituent, and an alkylene group containing a sulfur atom which may have a substituent. The examples of the substituents include an alkyl group (preferably an alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms), an aryl group (preferably an aryl group having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms, e.g., phenyl), and an acyl group (preferably an acyl group having from 2 to 11 carbon atoms).

The linking groups forming a 5- to 7-membered ring, e.g., a methylene group, an ethylene group, a propylene group, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$ and $-\text{CH}_2-\text{S}-$ are preferred, and the linking groups forming a 6-membered ring, e.g., an ethylene group, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$ and $-\text{CH}_2-\text{S}-$ are particularly preferred. By forming a 6-membered ring, carbonyl plane and $\text{S}-\text{C} + \text{sigma bond}$ become near vertical, and photo-decomposing property is improved by orbital interaction.

The compound represented by formula (III) may be a compound having two or more structures represented by formula (III) bonded by a single bond or via a linking group at any positions of $\text{R}_{1\text{c}}$, $\text{R}_{2\text{c}}$, $\text{R}_{3\text{c}}$, $\text{R}_{4\text{c}}$, $\text{R}_{5\text{c}}$, $\text{R}_{6\text{c}}$ and $\text{R}_{7\text{c}}$, and R_x and R_y .

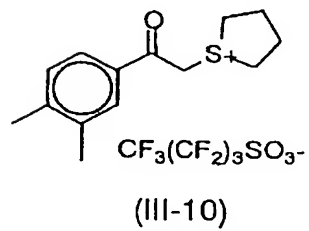
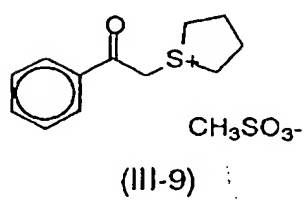
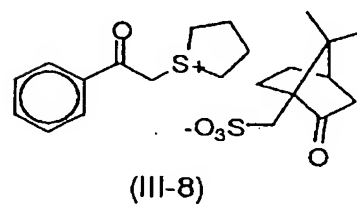
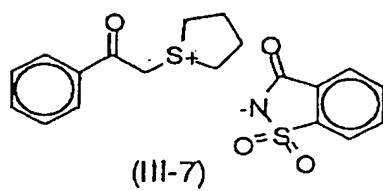
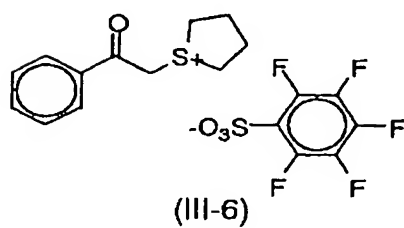
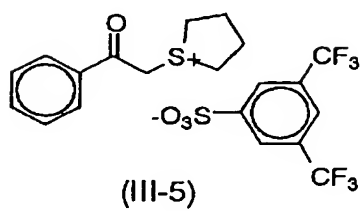
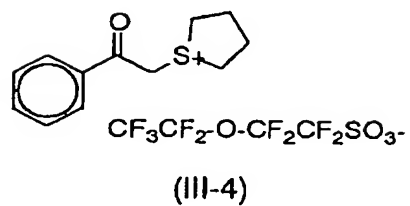
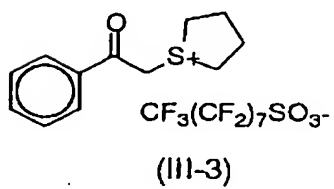
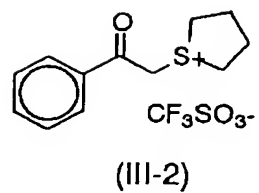
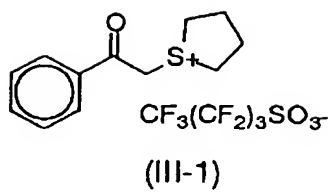
X^- preferably represents an anion of a sulfonic acid, more preferably an anion of an alkanesulfonic acid substituted with a fluorine atom on the 1-position and a benzenesulfonic acid substituted with an electron attractive group. The alkene moiety of the anion of the alkanesulfonic acid may be substituted

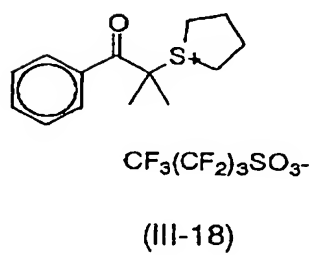
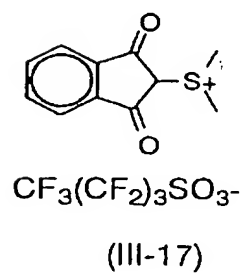
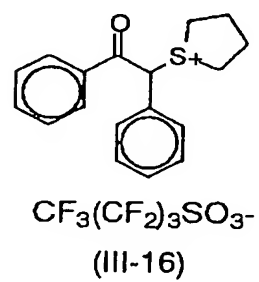
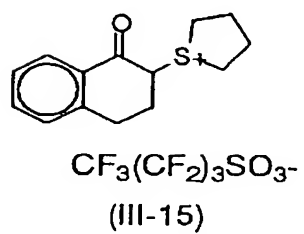
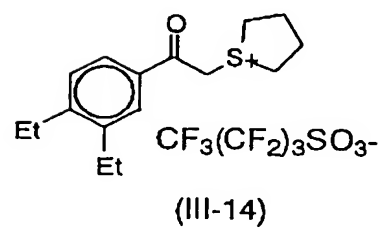
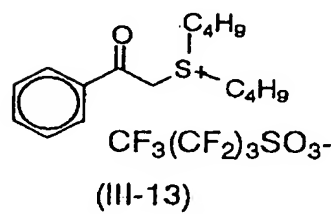
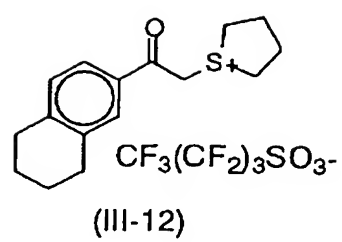
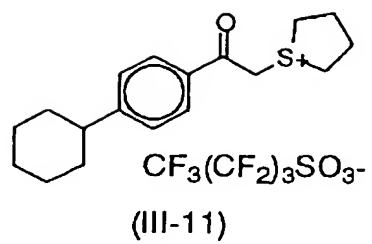
with an alkoxyl group (e.g., having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms), or a perfluoroalkoxy group (e.g., having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms).

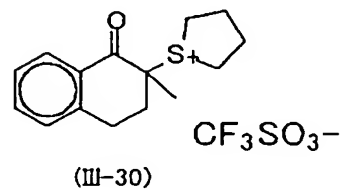
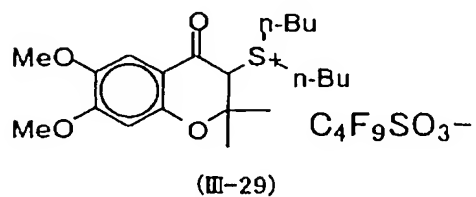
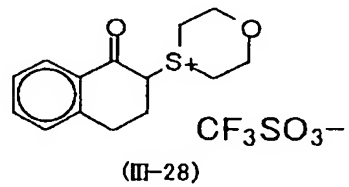
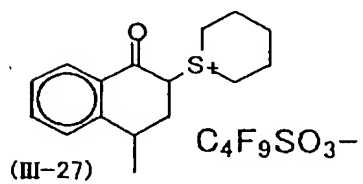
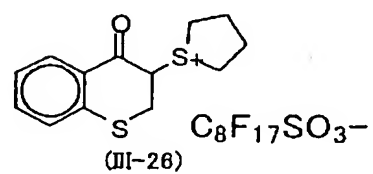
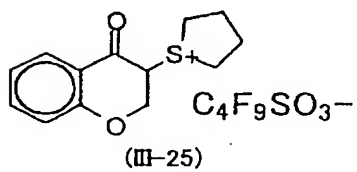
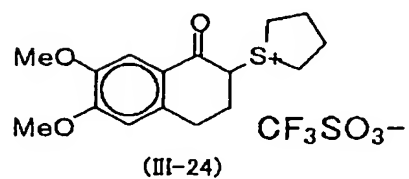
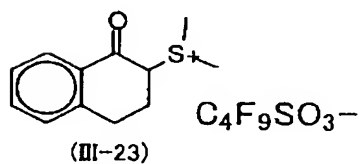
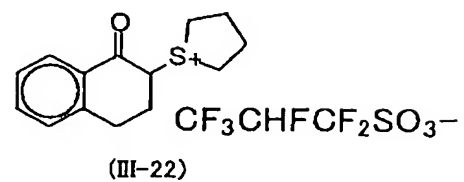
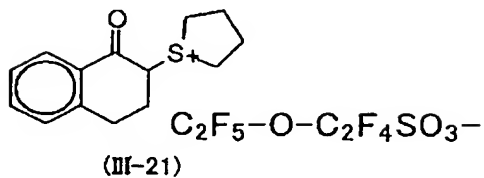
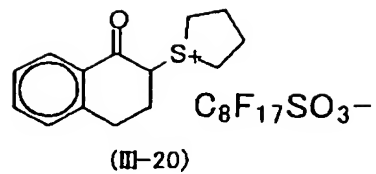
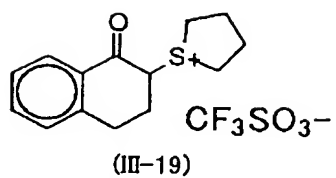
The examples of the electron attractive groups include a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an acyloxy group and an acyl group.

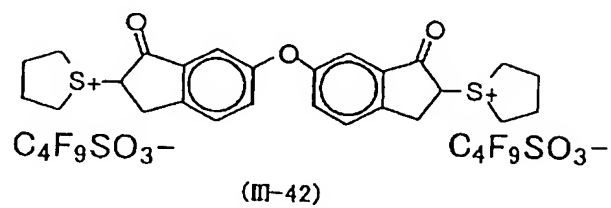
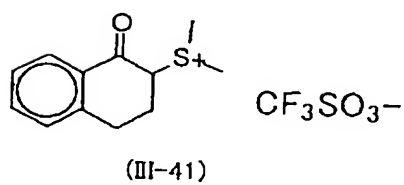
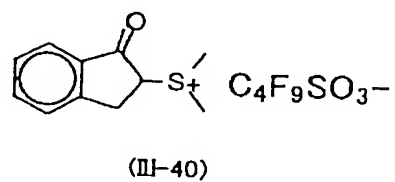
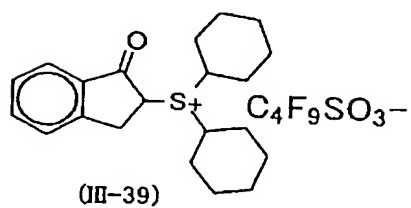
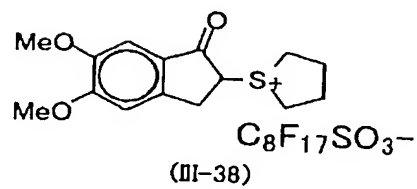
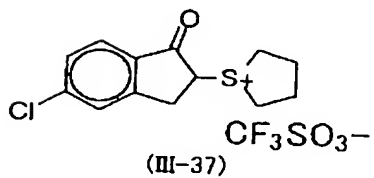
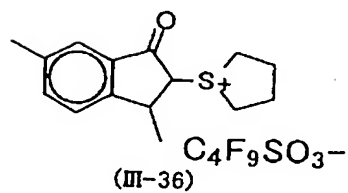
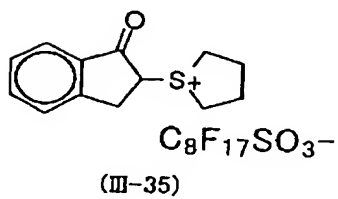
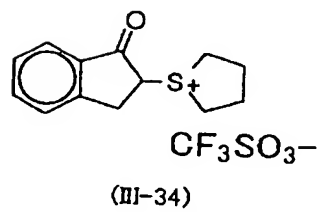
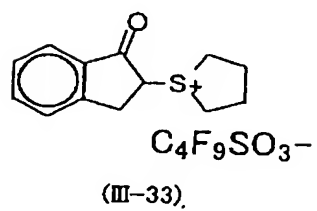
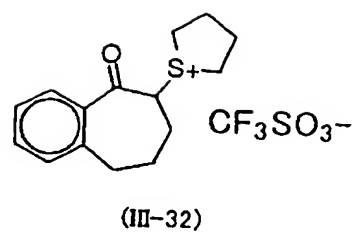
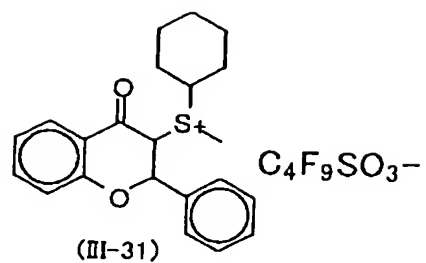
X⁻ more preferably represents an anion of a perfluoroalkanesulfonic acid having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, particularly preferably an anion of a perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, and most preferably an anion of a perfluorobutanesulfonic acid and an anion of a trifluoromethanesulfonic acid. The decomposition velocity of an acid-decomposable group can be improved, the sensitivity is increased and the diffusibility of the acid generated is inhibited by using these compounds, resulting in the improvement of resolution.

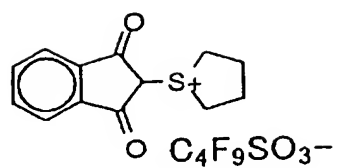
The specific examples of the compounds having a phenacylsulfonium salt structure which can be used in the present invention are shown below, however, these compounds should not be construed as limiting the scope of the present invention.



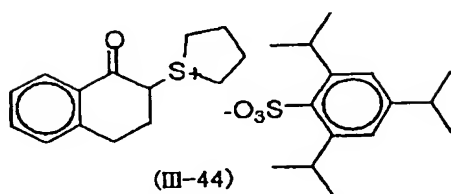




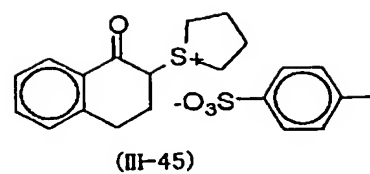




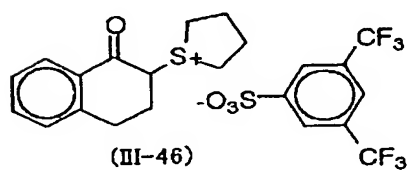
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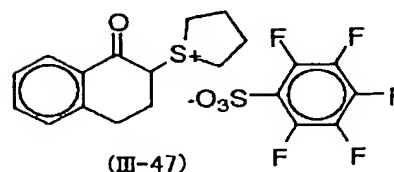
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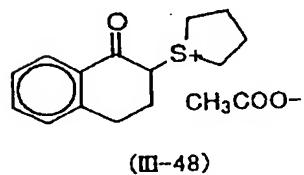
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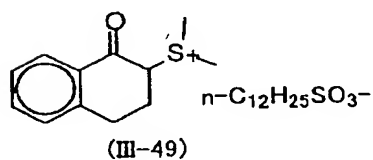
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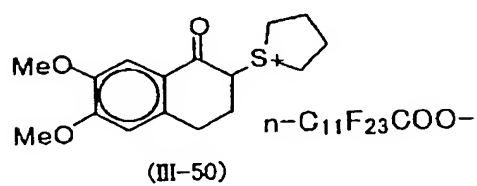
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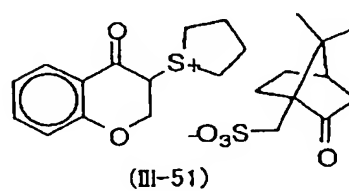
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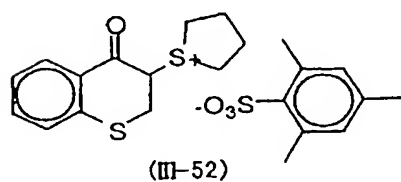
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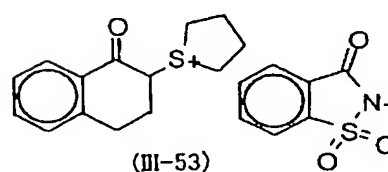
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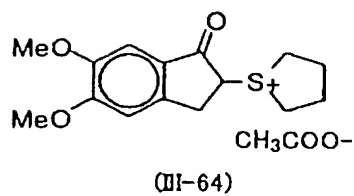
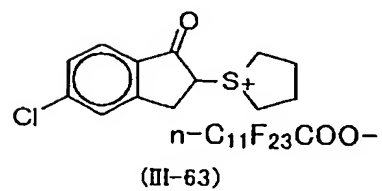
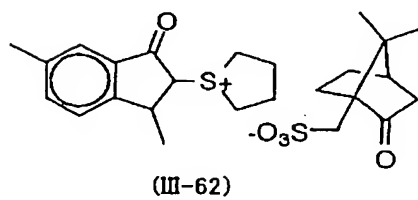
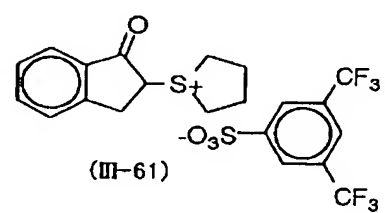
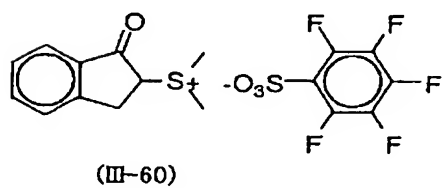
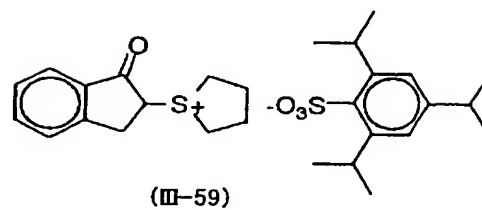
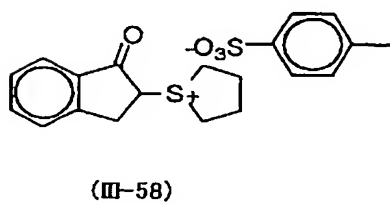
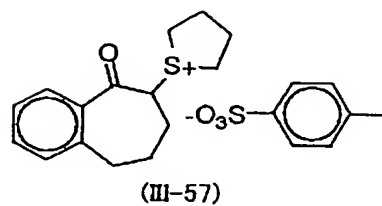
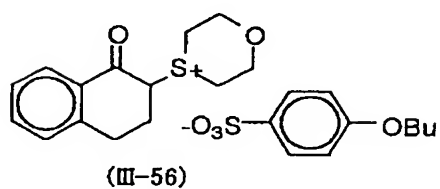
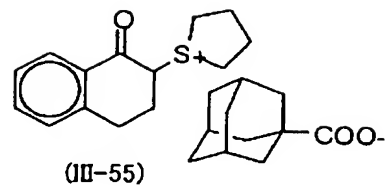
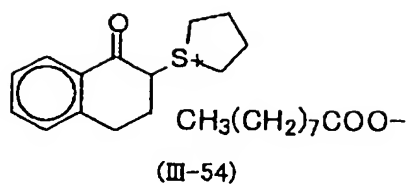
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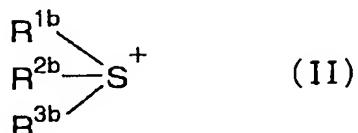
(III-52)



(III-53)



The sulfonium salt not having an aromatic ring is a salt containing a sulfonium represented by the following formula (II) as a cation:



wherein R^{1b} , R^{2b} and R^{3b} each represents an organic group not having an aromatic ring, the aromatic ring here also includes aromatic rings containing hetero atoms.

The organic groups not having an aromatic ring represented by R^{1b} , R^{2b} and R^{3b} are organic groups generally having from 1 to 30, preferably from 1 to 20, carbon atoms.

R^{1b} , R^{2b} and R^{3b} each preferably represents an alkyl group, a 2-oxoalkyl group, an alkoxy carbonylmethyl group, an allyl group or a vinyl group, more preferably a straight chain, branched or cyclic 2-oxoalkyl group, or an alkoxy carbonylmethyl group, and most preferably a straight chain or branched 2-oxoalkyl group.

The alkyl groups represented by R^{1b} , R^{2b} and R^{3b} may be straight chain, branched or cyclic, preferably a straight chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms (e.g., methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl and pentyl), or a cyclic alkyl group having from 3 to 10 carbon atoms (e.g., cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and norbornyl).

The 2-oxoalkyl group represented by R^{1b} , R^{2b} and R^{3b} may

be straight chain, branched or cyclic, preferably the above alkyl group having C=O on the 2-position can be exemplified.

The alkoxyl group in the above alkoxycarbonylmethyl group represented by R^{1b} , R^{2b} and R^{3b} is preferably an alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms (e.g., methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl and pentyl).

R^{1b} , R^{2b} and R^{3b} may further be substituted with a halogen atom, an alkoxyl group (e.g., an alkoxyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms), a hydroxyl group, a cyano group or a nitro group.

Two of R^{1b} , R^{2b} and R^{3b} may be bonded to form a cyclic structure, and an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, an ester bond, an amide bond or a carbonyl group may be contained in the ring.

The examples of the groups formed by bonding two of R^{1b} , R^{2b} and R^{3b} include alkylene groups (e.g., butylene and pentylene).

From the viewpoint of photo-reactivity, it is preferred that any one of R^{1b} , R^{2b} and R^{3b} should represent a group having a carbon-carbon double bond or a carbon-oxygen double bond.

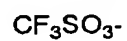
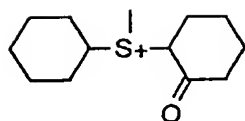
The anion of a sulfonium salt not having an aromatic ring is an anion of a sulfonic acid, preferably an anion of an alkanesulfonic acid substituted with a fluorine atom on the 1-position and a benzenesulfonic acid substituted with an electron attractive group, more preferably an anion of a perfluoroalkanesulfonic acid having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and most preferably an anion of a perfluorobutanesulfonic acid and an anion of a perfluorooctanesulfonic acid. The decomposition

velocity of an acid-decomposable group can be improved, the sensitivity is increased and the diffusibility of the acid generated is inhibited by using these compounds, resulting in the improvement of resolution.

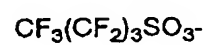
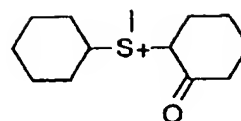
The examples of the electron attractive groups include a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an acyloxy group and an acyl group.

At least one of R^{1b} , R^{2b} and R^{3b} of a compound represented by formula (II) may be bonded to at least one of R^{1b} , R^{2b} and R^{3b} of other compound represented by formula (II).

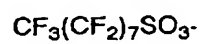
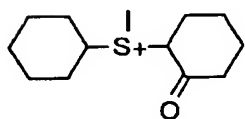
The specific examples of the sulfonium salts not having an aromatic ring which can be used in the present invention include the following compounds, however, these examples should not be construed as limiting the scope of the present invention.



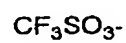
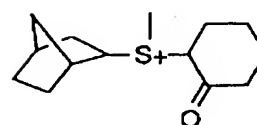
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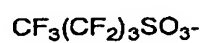
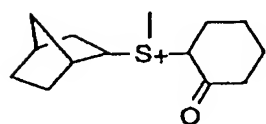
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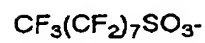
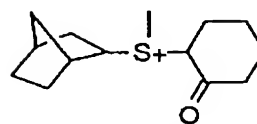
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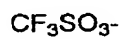
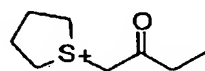
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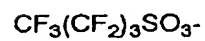
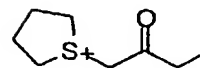
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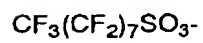
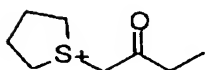
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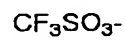
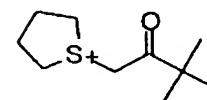
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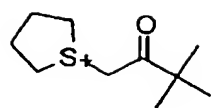
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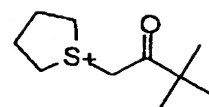
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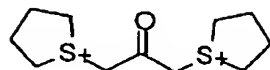
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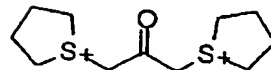
$\text{CF}_3(\text{CF}_2)_3\text{SO}_3^-$
(II-11)



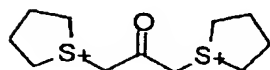
$\text{CF}_3(\text{CF}_2)_7\text{SO}_3^-$
(II-12)



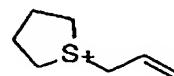
2 CF_3SO_3^-
(II-13)



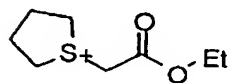
2 $\text{CF}_3(\text{CF}_2)_3\text{SO}_3^-$
(II-14)



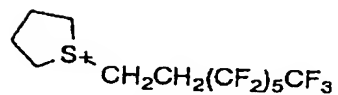
2 $\text{CF}_3(\text{CF}_2)_7\text{SO}_3^-$
(II-15)



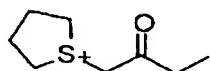
$\text{CF}_3(\text{CF}_2)_3\text{SO}_3^-$
(II-16)



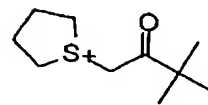
$\text{CF}_3(\text{CF}_2)_3\text{SO}_3^-$
(II-17)



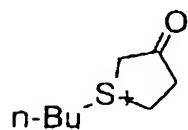
$\text{CF}_3(\text{CF}_2)_3\text{SO}_3^-$
(II-18)



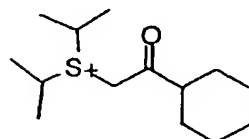
$\text{CF}_3\text{CF}_2\text{-O-CF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{SO}_3^-$
(II-19)



$\text{CF}_3\text{CF}_2\text{-O-CF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{SO}_3^-$
(II-20)



$\text{CF}_3(\text{CF}_2)_3\text{SO}_3^-$
(II-21)



$\text{CF}_3(\text{CF}_2)_3\text{SO}_3^-$
(II-22)

The composition of the present invention comprises a sulfonium salt not having an aromatic ring and a phenacylsulfonium salt, and it is preferred to satisfy the following conditions:

(1) A sulfonium salt not having an aromatic ring is contained in an amount of 2 wt% or more, preferably from 2.5 to 15 wt%, and more preferably from 3 to 12 wt%, based on the entire solid content in the composition.

(2) A phenacylsulfonium salt is contained in an amount of 1 wt% or more, preferably from 2 to 12 wt%, and more preferably from 3 to 8 wt%, based on the entire solid content in the composition.

(3) The total addition amount of the two acid generators is 3 wt% or more, preferably from 4.5 to 20 wt%, and more preferably from 6 to 15 wt%, based on the entire solid content in the composition.

It is preferred that one or more of conditions 1) to 3) are satisfied, more preferably two or more of conditions 1) to 3) are satisfied, and most preferably all the conditions 1) to 3) are satisfied. When none of these conditions are satisfied, generating amount of an acid becomes insufficient and the sensitivity is liable to lower.

Acid generators usable in combination besides component (A)

A compound which decomposes and generates an acid upon irradiation with an actinic ray or a radiation can be used in the present invention besides mixture component (A).

The use amount of a phot-acid generator capable of being

used in combination with component (A) of the present invention is, in molar ratio of (component (A)) / (other photo-acid generator), generally from 100/0 to 20/80, preferably from 100/0 to 40/60, and more preferably from 100/0 to 50/50.

As such photo-acid generators which can be used in combination, a photoinitiator for photocationic polymerization, a photoinitiator for photoradical polymerization, a photodecoloring agent for dyes, a photodiscoloring agent, well-known compounds used for a microresist or the like which generate an acid upon irradiation with an actinic ray or a radiation, and mixtures of these compounds can be arbitrarily selected.

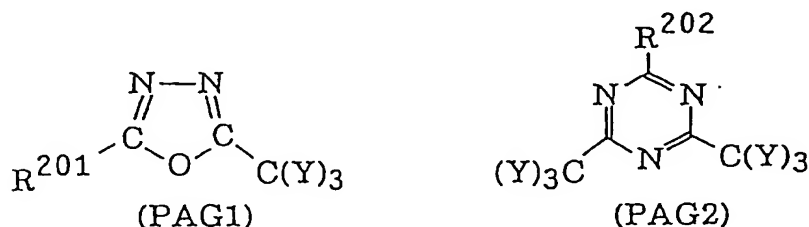
As such compounds, for example, onium salts, e.g., diazonium salts, ammonium salts, phosphonium salts, iodonium salts, sulfonium salts, selenonium salts, and arsonium salts, organic halogen compounds, organic metals/organic halides, photo-acid generators having an o-nitrobenzyl type protective group, compounds which generate a sulfonic acid by photodecomposition represented by iminosulfonate, and disulfone compounds can be exemplified.

Further, compounds having introduced these groups or compounds capable of generating an acid upon irradiation with an actinic ray or a radiation into the main chain or side chain of the polymer can be used in the present invention, e.g., those disclosed in U.S. Patent 3,849,137, German Patent 3,914,407, JP-A-63-26653, JP-A-55-164824, JP-A-62-69263, JP-A-63-146038, JP-A-63-163452, JP-A-62-153853, and JP-A-63-146029.

Further, the compounds which generate an acid by light as described, e.g., in U.S. Patent 3,779,778 and EP No. 126712 can also be used in the present invention.

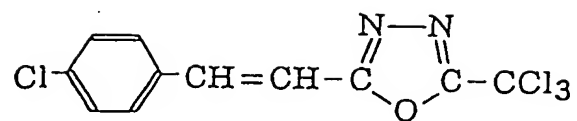
Of the above compounds which decompose upon irradiation with an actinic ray or a radiation and generate an acid usable in combination with component (A), those particularly effectively used in the present invention are described below.

(1) An oxazole derivative represented by the following formula (PAG1) and an S-triazine derivative represented by the following formula (PAG2), which are substituted with a trihalomethyl group

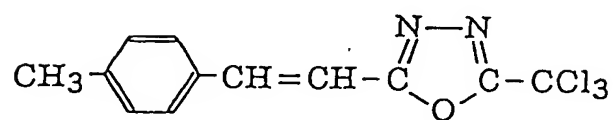


wherein R²⁰¹ represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group; R²⁰² represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, or -C(Y)₃; and Y represents a chlorine atom or a bromine atom.

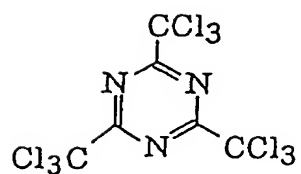
The specific examples thereof include the following compounds, however, these compounds should not be construed as limiting the scope of the present invention.



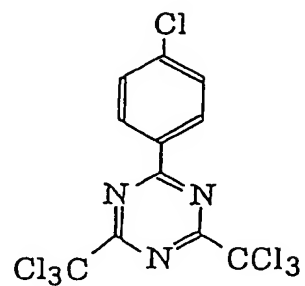
(PAG1-1)



(PAG1-2)

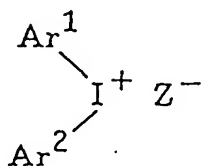


(PAG2-1)

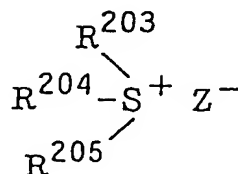


(PAG2-2)

(2) An iodonium salt represented by the following formula (PAG3) or a sulfonium salt represented by the following formula (PAG4)



(PAG3)



(PAG4)

In formula (PAG3), Ar¹ and Ar² each represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group. The examples of the preferred substituents include an alkyl group, a haloalkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, a nitro group, a carboxyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, a hydroxyl group, a mercapto group and a halogen atom.

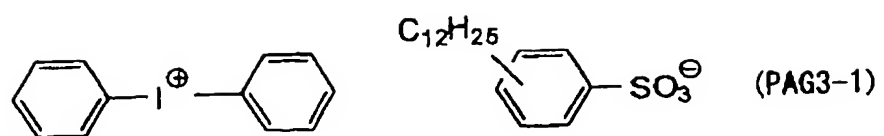
In formula (PAG4), R²⁰³, R²⁰⁴ and R²⁰⁵ each represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, provided that at least one represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group and at least one represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group. For example, an aryl group having from 6 to 14 carbon atoms can be exemplified as the aryl group, and an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms can be exemplified as the alkyl group.

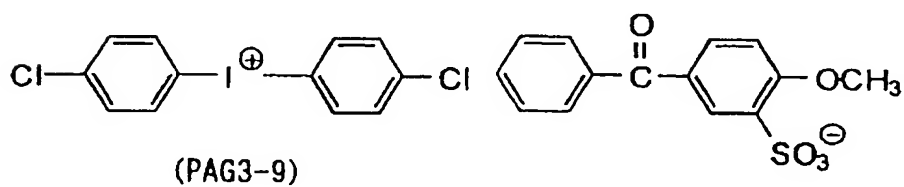
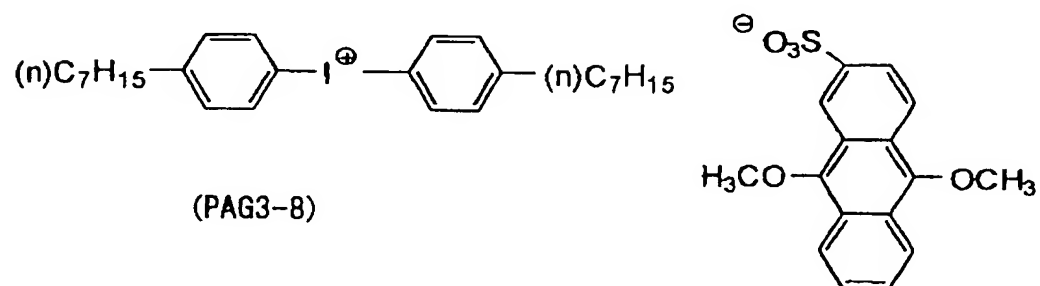
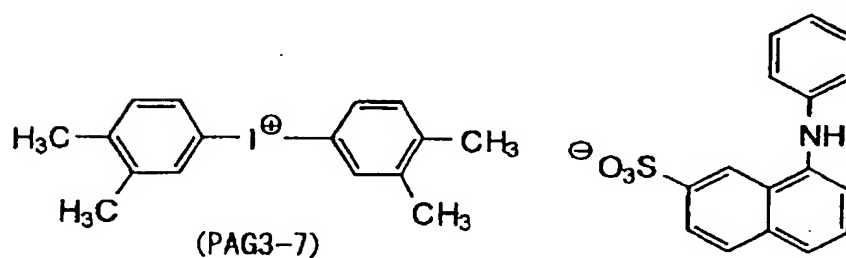
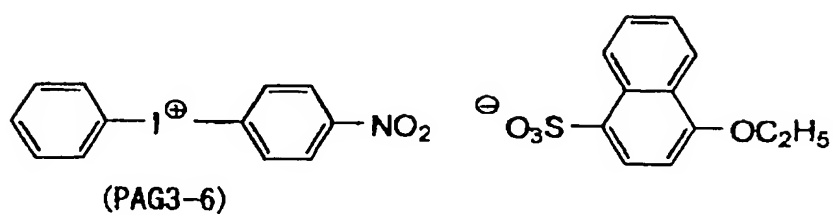
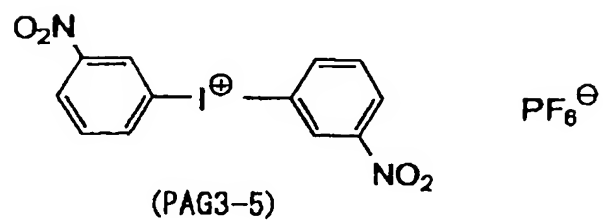
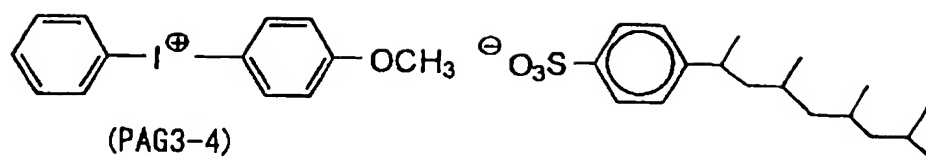
The substituent of the aryl group is preferably an alkoxyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a nitro group, a carboxyl group, a hydroxyl group or a halogen atom, and the substituent of the alkyl group is preferably an alkoxyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a carboxyl group, or an alkoxycarbonyl group.

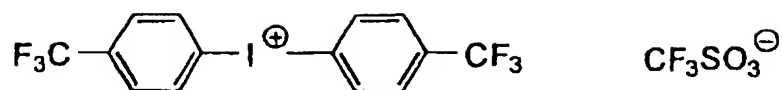
In formulae (PAG3) and (PAG4), Z^- represents a counter anion, e.g., a perfluoroalkanesulfonate anion such as BF_4^- , AsF_6^- , PF_6^- , SbF_6^- , SiF_6^{2-} , ClO_4^- and $CF_3SO_3^-$, a pentafluorobenzenesulfonate anion, a condensed polynuclear aromatic sulfonate anion such as a naphthalene-1-sulfonate anion, an anthraquinonesulfonate anion, or a sulfonic acid group-containing dye, but the present invention is not limited thereto.

Further, two of R^{203} , R^{204} and R^{205} , and Ar^1 and Ar^2 may be bonded through respective single bonds or substituents.

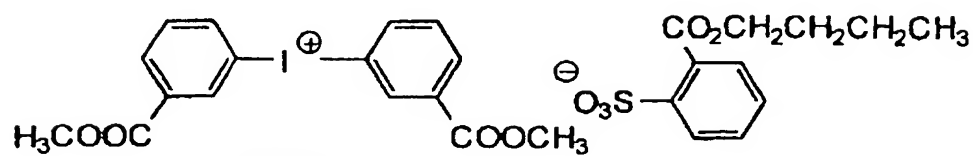
The specific examples thereof include the following compounds but the present invention is not limited thereto.



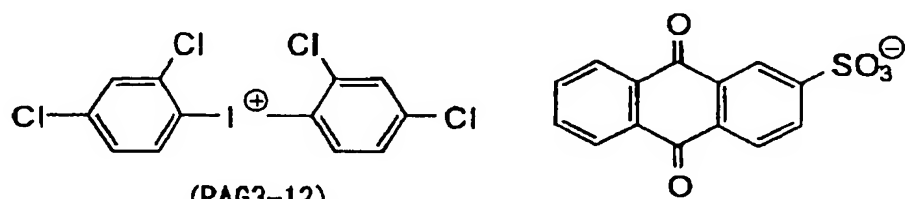




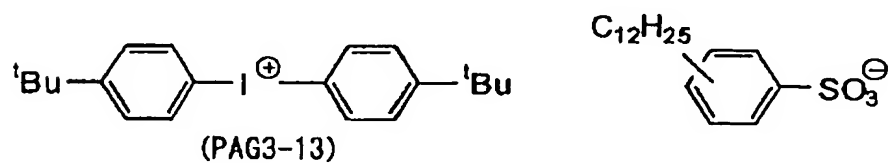
(PAG3-10)



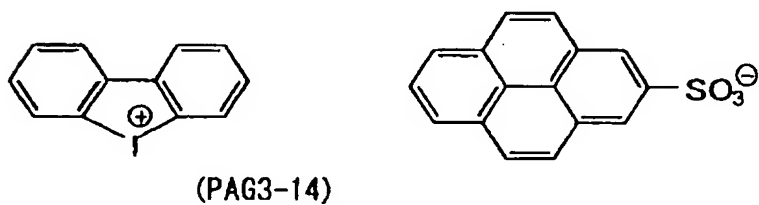
(PAG3-11)



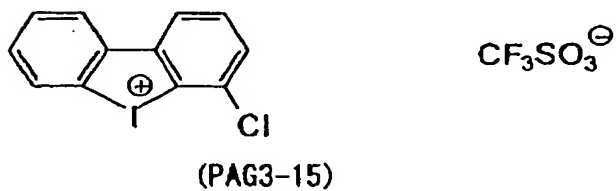
(PAG3-12)



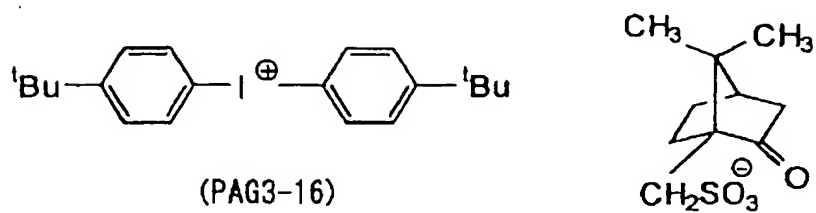
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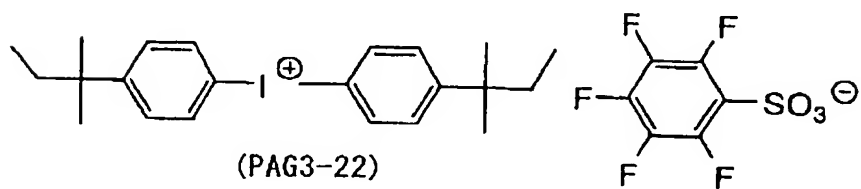
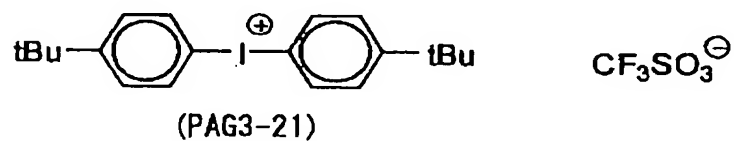
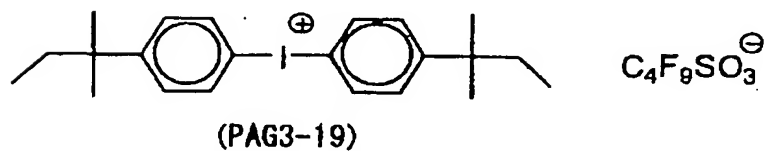
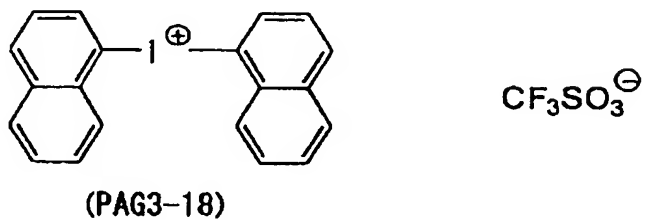
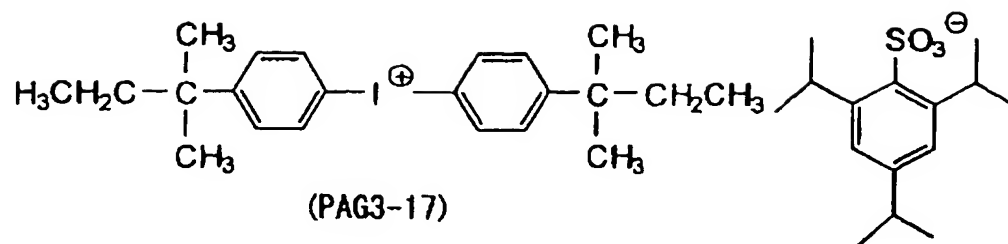
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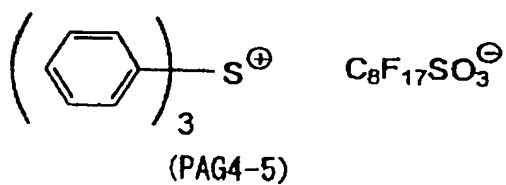
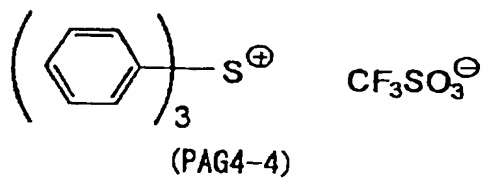
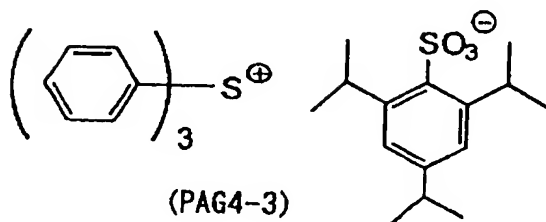
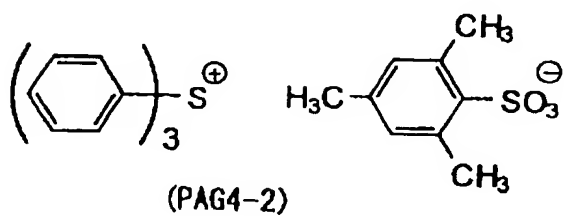
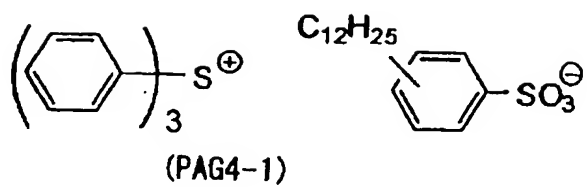


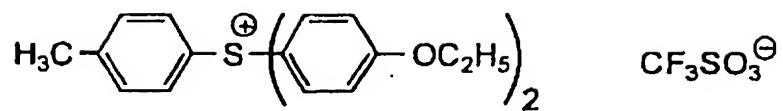
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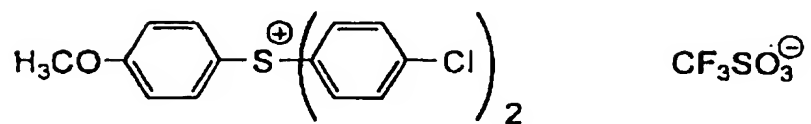
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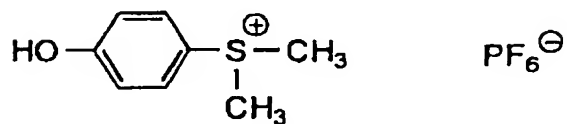




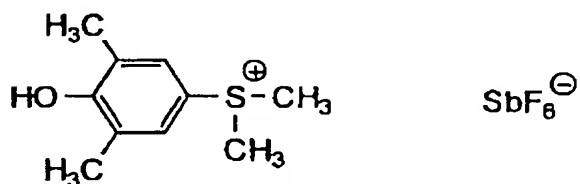
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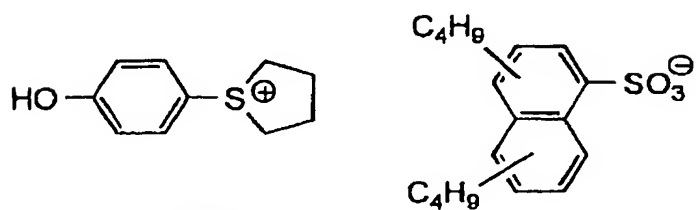
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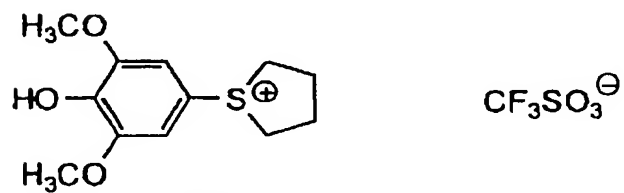
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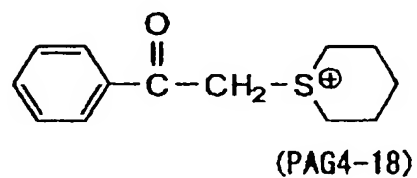
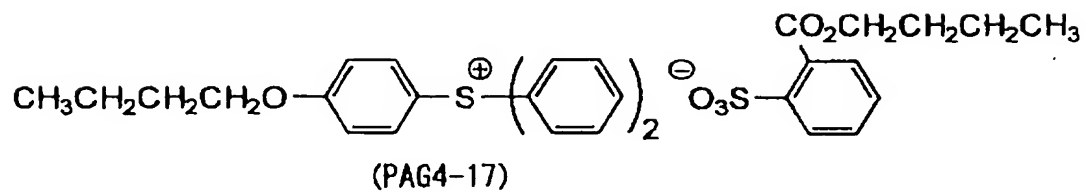
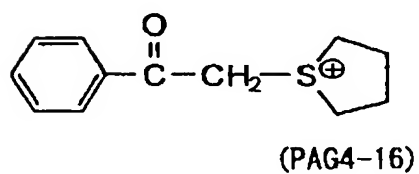
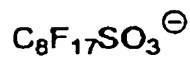
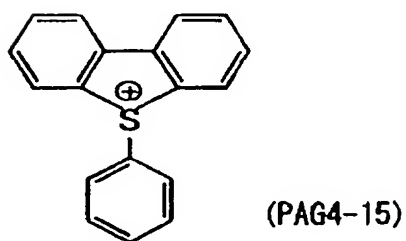
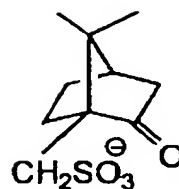
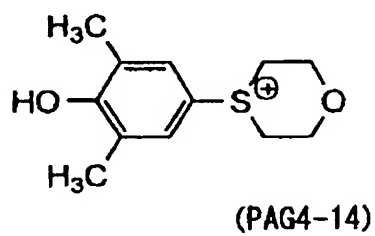
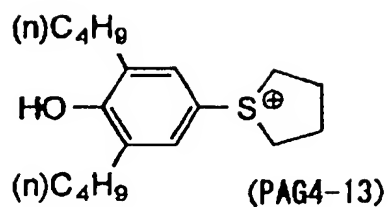
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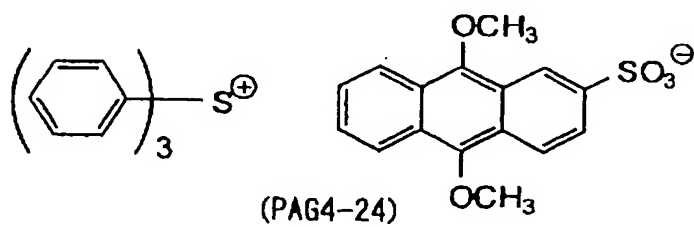
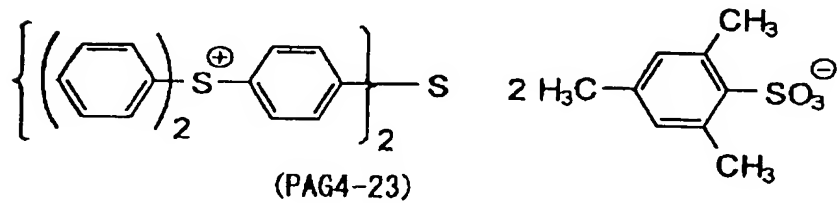
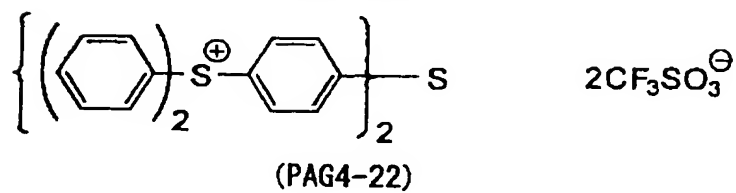
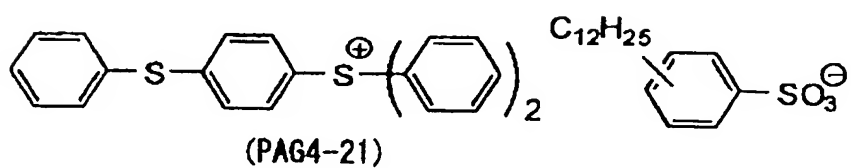
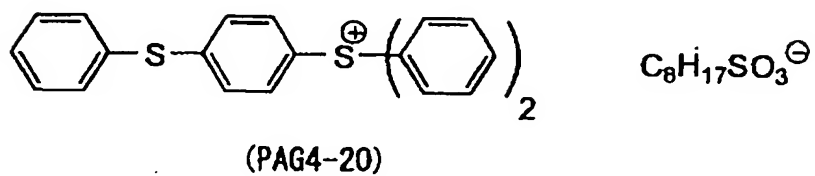
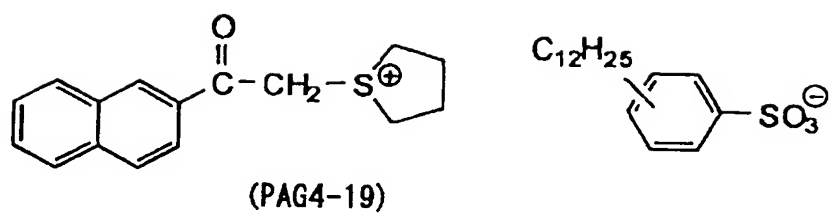


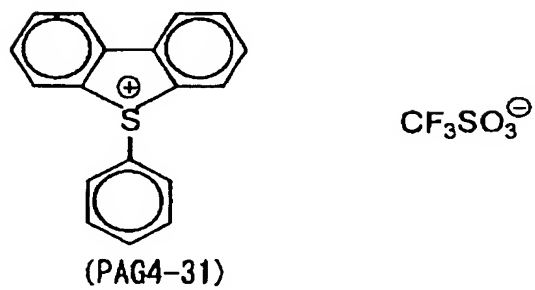
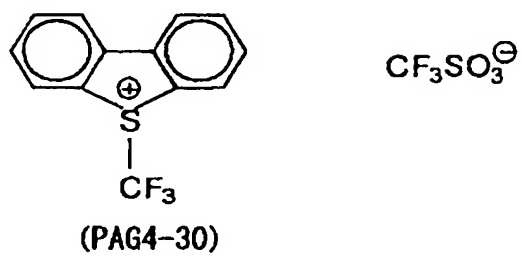
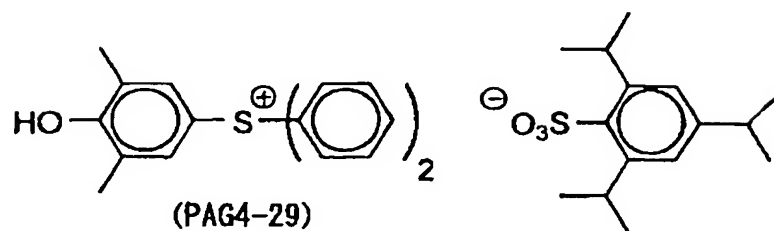
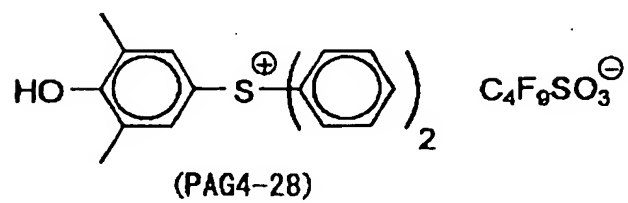
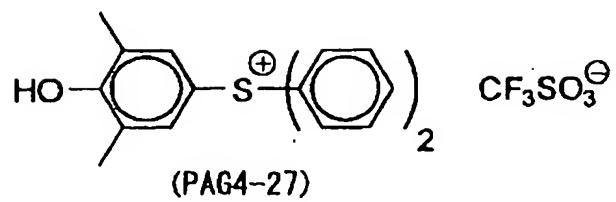
(PAG4-11)



(PAG4-12)

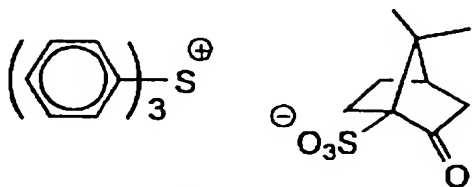




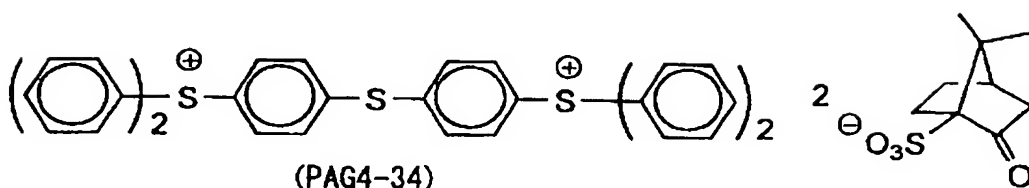




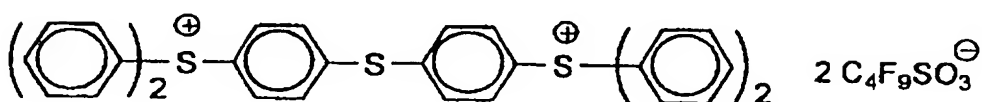
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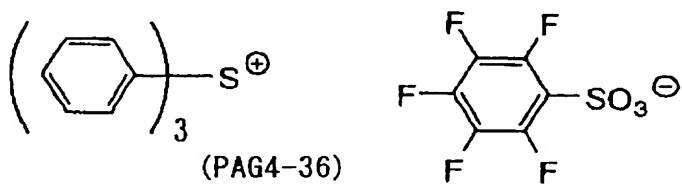
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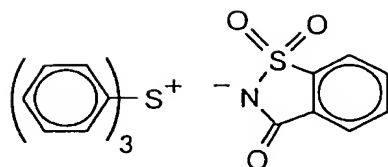
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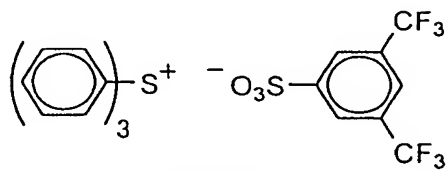
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(PAG4-36)



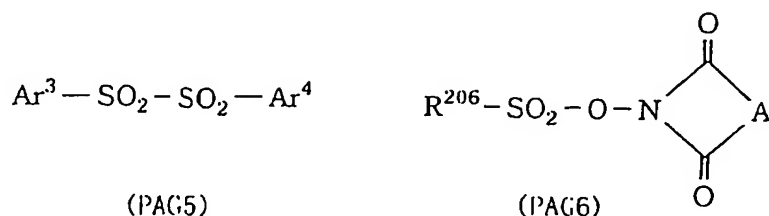
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(PAG4-38)

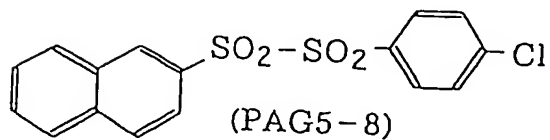
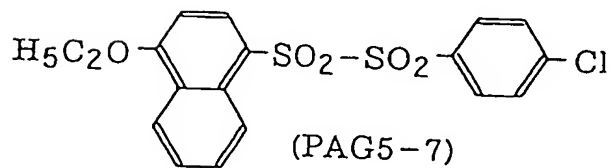
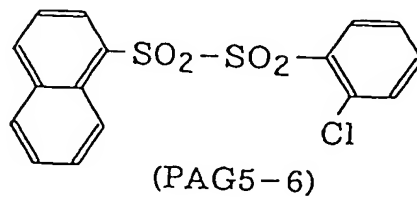
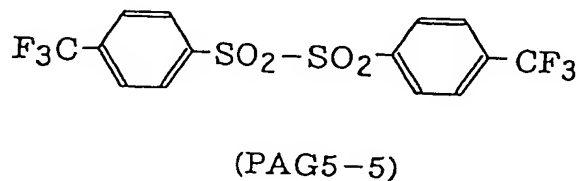
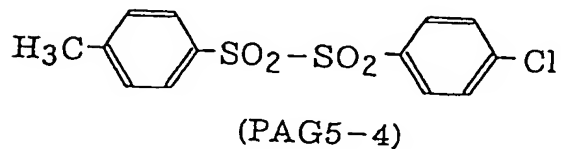
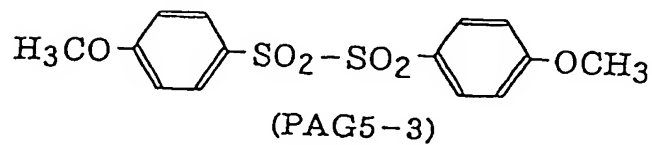
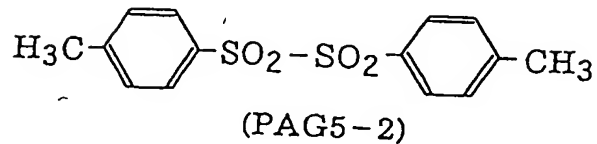
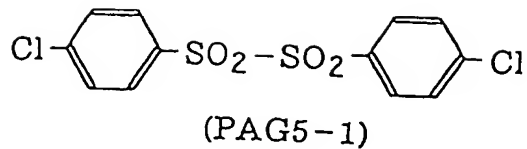
The onium salts represented by formulae (PAG3) and (PAG4) are well-known compounds and can be synthesized according to the methods disclosed, e.g., in U.S. Patents 2,807,648, 4,247,473, and JP-A-53-101331.

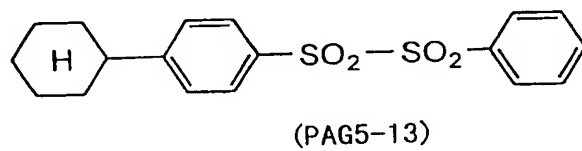
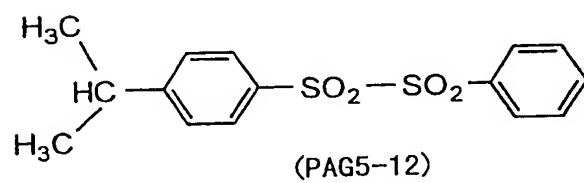
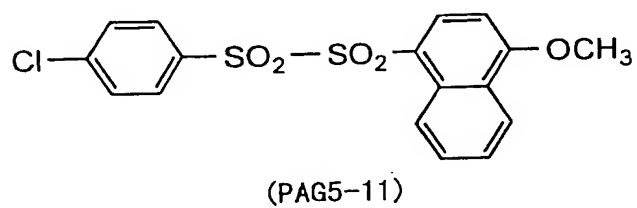
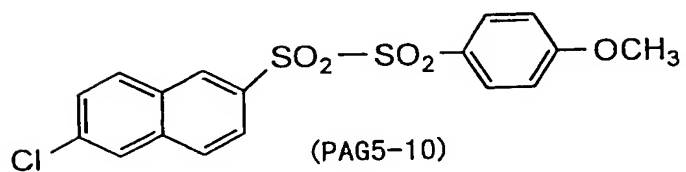
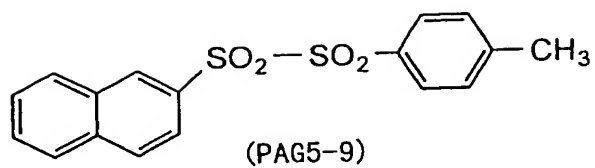
(3) A disulfone derivative represented by the following formula (PAG5) or an iminosulfonate derivative represented by the following formula (PAG6)

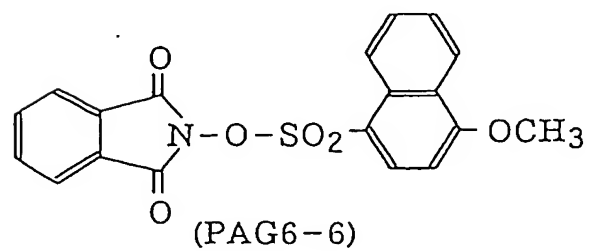
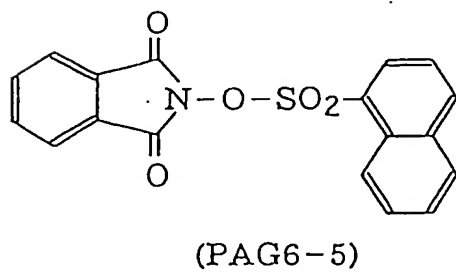
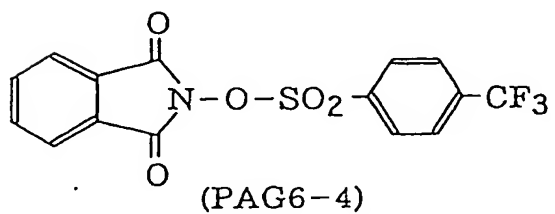
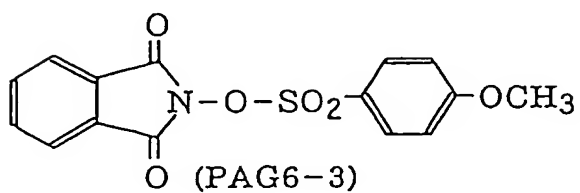
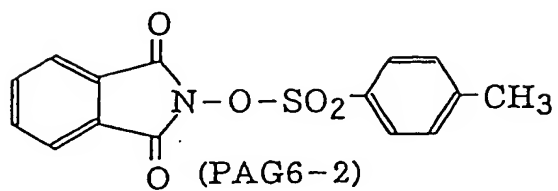
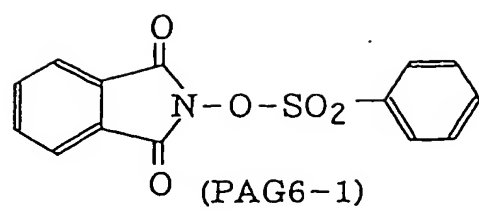


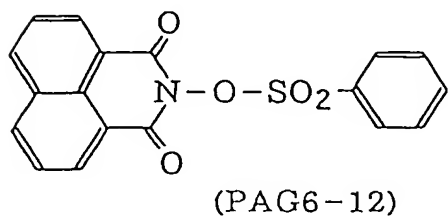
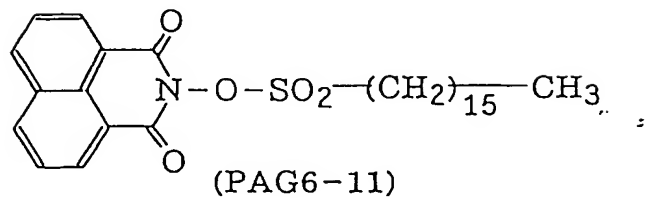
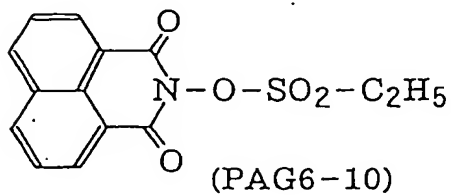
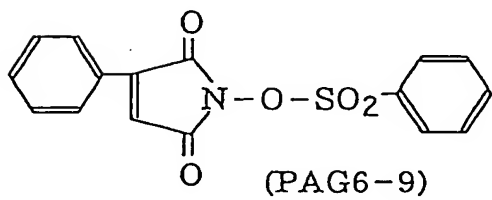
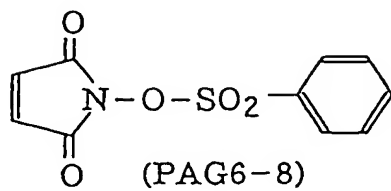
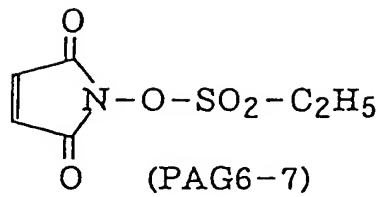
wherein Ar^3 and Ar^4 each represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; R^{206} represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; and A represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenylene group, or a substituted or unsubstituted arylene group.

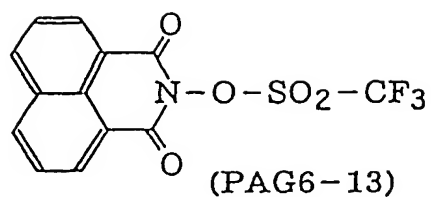
The specific examples thereof include the following compounds but the present invention is not limited thereto.



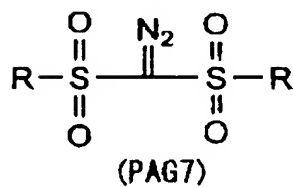






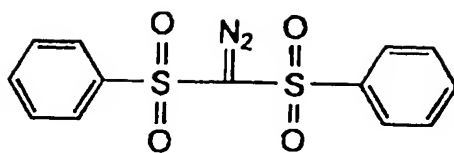


(4) A diazodisulfone derivative represented by the following formula (PAG7)

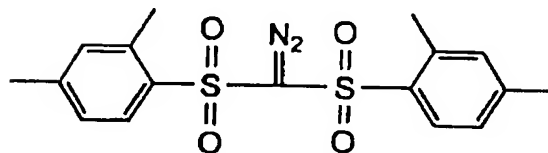


wherein R represents a straight chain, branched or cyclic alkyl group or an aryl group which may be substituted.

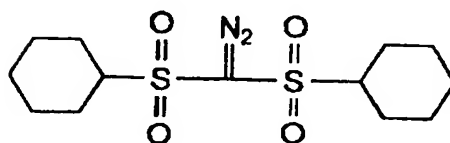
Specific examples thereof are shown below but the present invention is not limited thereto.



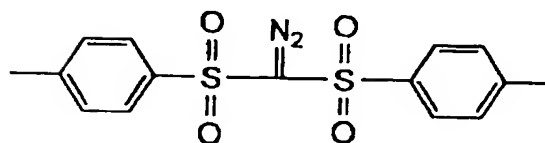
(PAG7-1)



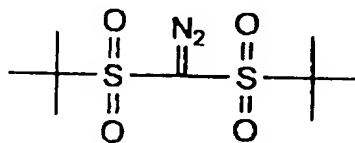
(PAG7-2)



(PAG7-3)

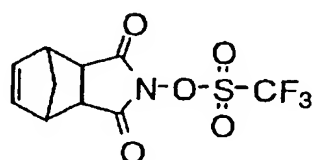


(PAG7-4)

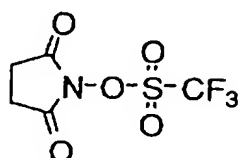


(PAG7-5)

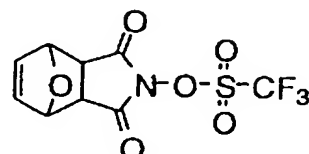
The following compounds can be exemplified as particularly preferred acid generators for use in combination in the present invention.



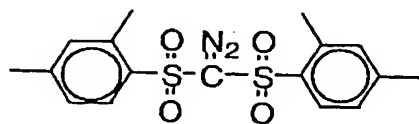
(a1)



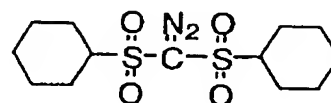
(a2)



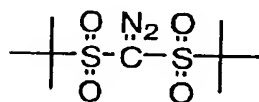
(a3)



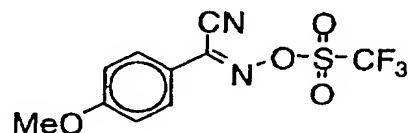
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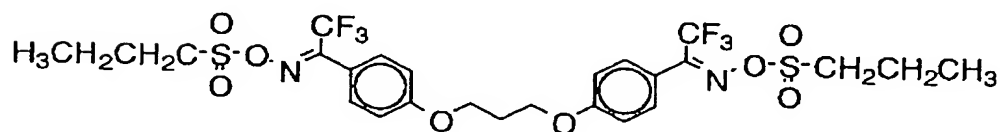
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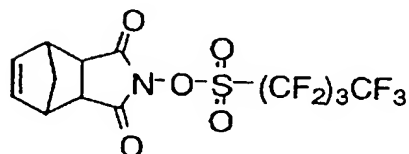
(a6)



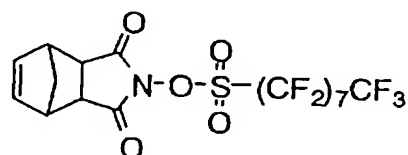
(a7)



(a8)



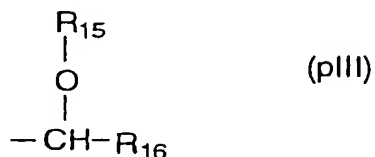
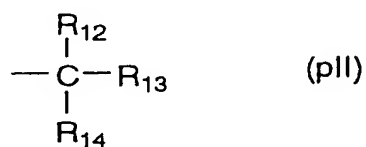
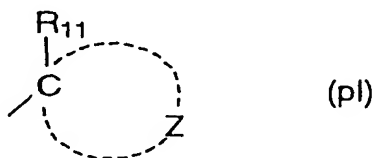
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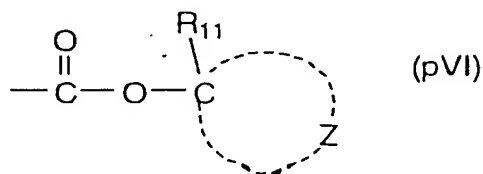
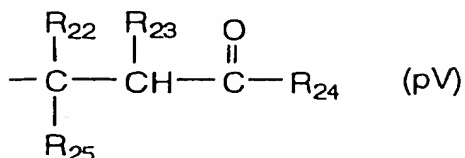
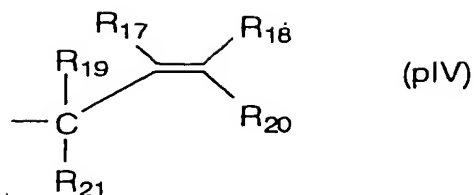


(a10)

(B) Resin capable of increasing the solubility in alkali developer by the action of acid (also referred to as "acid-decomposable resin")

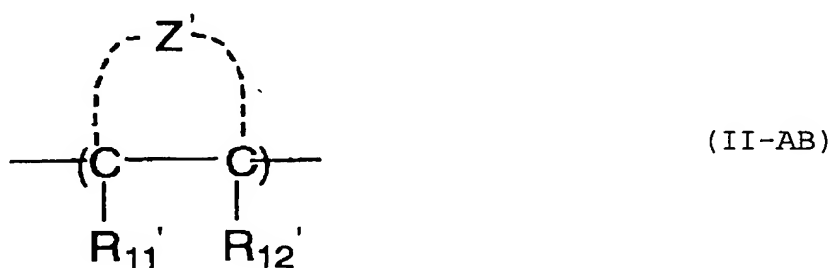
As the acid-decomposable resin (B) for use in the present invention, any resin having a monocyclic or polycyclic alicyclic hydrocarbon structure and capable of increasing the solubility in an alkali developer by the action of an acid can be used, and it is preferred to contain at least one selected from the group consisting of: a repeating unit having a partial structure containing an alicyclic hydrocarbon represented by formula (pI), (pII), (pIII), (pIV), (pV) or (pVI); and a repeating unit represented by formula (II-AB):





wherein R_{11} represents a methyl group, an ethyl group, an n-propyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-butyl group, an isobutyl group or a sec-butyl group; Z represents an atomic group necessary to form an alicyclic hydrocarbon group together with carbon atoms; R_{12} , R_{13} , R_{14} , R_{15} and R_{16} each represents a straight chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or an alicyclic hydrocarbon group, provided that at least one of R_{12} , R_{13} and R_{14} , or either R_{15} or R_{16} represents an alicyclic hydrocarbon group; R_{17} , R_{18} , R_{19} , R_{20} and R_{21} each represents a hydrogen atom, a straight chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or an alicyclic hydrocarbon group, provided that at least one of R_{17} , R_{18} , R_{19} , R_{20} and R_{21} represents an alicyclic hydrocarbon group, and either R_{19} or R_{21} represents a straight chain or branched

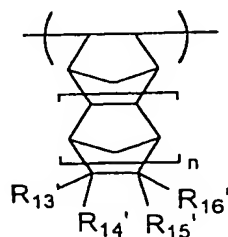
alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or an alicyclic hydrocarbon group; and R_{22} , R_{23} , R_{24} and R_{25} each represents a straight chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or an alicyclic hydrocarbon group, provided that at least one of R_{22} , R_{23} , R_{24} and R_{25} represents an alicyclic hydrocarbon group, and R_{23} and R_{24} may be bonded to each other to form a ring;



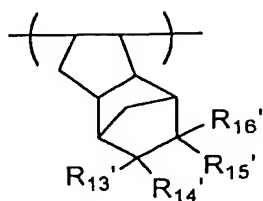
(II-AB)

wherein R_{11}' and R_{12}' each represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a halogen atom, or an alkyl group which may have a substituent; Z' contains two bonded carbon atoms (C-C), and represents an atomic group necessary to form an alicyclic structure which may have a substituent.

The compound represented by formula (II-AB) is preferably represented by formula (II-A) or (II-B):

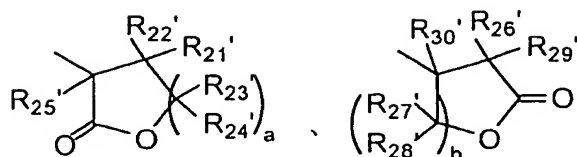


(II-A)



(II-B)

wherein R_{13}' , R_{14}' , R_{15}' and R_{16}' each represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, $-\text{COOH}$, $-\text{COOR}_5$, a group which decomposes by the action of an acid, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{X}-\text{A}'-\text{R}_{17}'$, an alkyl group which may have a substituent, or an alicyclic hydrocarbon group which may have a substituent, R_5 represents an alkyl group which may have a substituent, a cyclic hydrocarbon group which may have a substituent, or a $-\text{Y}$ group shown below; X represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, $-\text{NH}-$, $-\text{NHSO}_2-$ or $-\text{NHSO}_2\text{NH}-$; A' represents a single bond or a divalent linking group; at least two of R_{13}' , R_{14}' , R_{15}' and R_{16}' may be bonded to each other to form a ring; n represents 0 or 1; R_{17}' represents $-\text{COOH}$, $-\text{COOR}_5$, $-\text{CN}$, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxyl group which may have a substituent, $-\text{CO}-\text{NH}-\text{R}_6$, $-\text{CO}-\text{NH}-\text{SO}_2-\text{R}_6$, or a $-\text{Y}$ group shown below; and R_6 represents an alkyl group which may have a substituent or a cyclic hydrocarbon group which may have a substituent,



wherein R_{21}' to R_{30}' each represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group which may have a substituent, and a and b each represents 1 or 2.

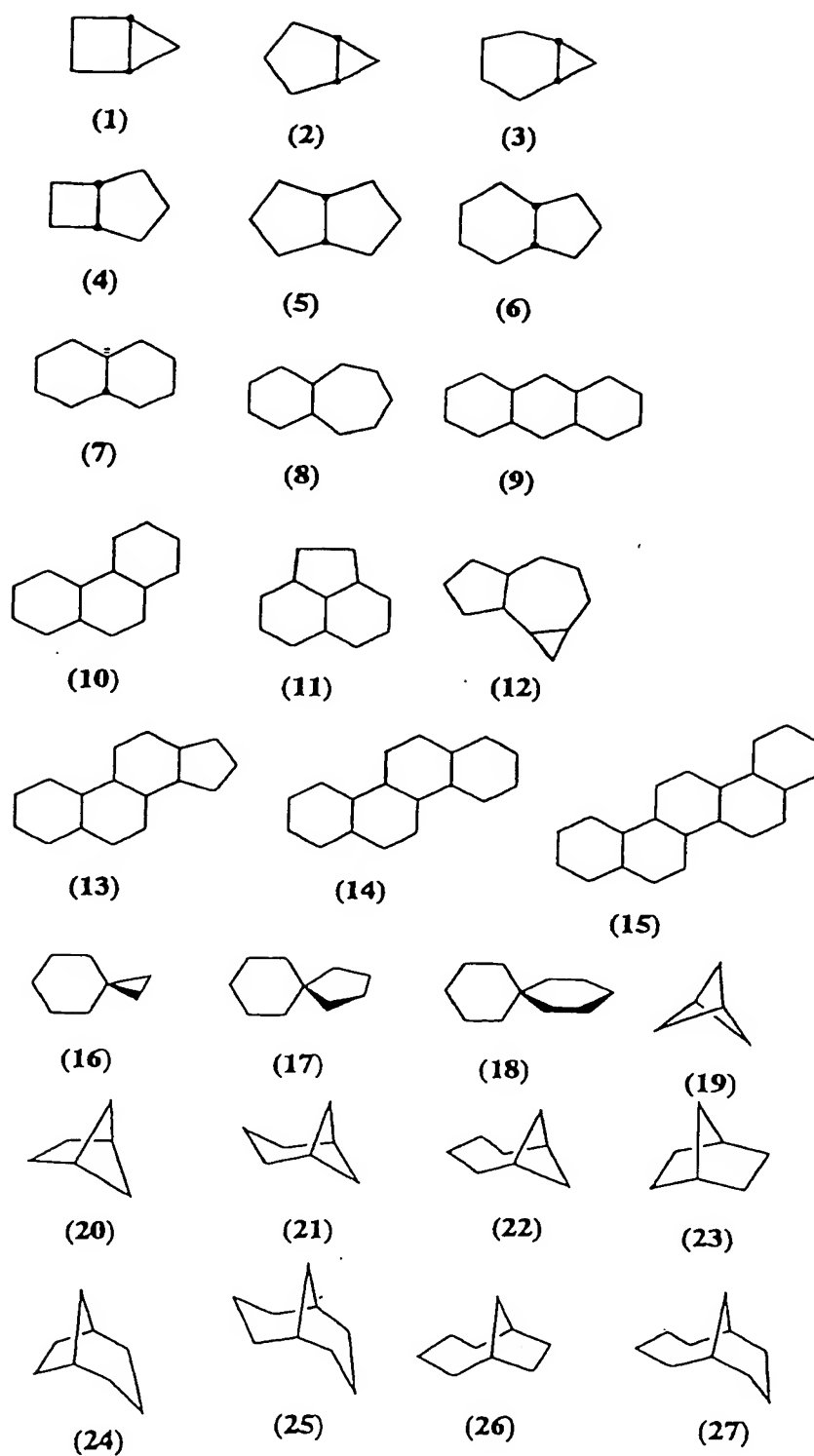
In formulae (pI), (pII), (pIII), (pIV), (pV) and (pVI), the alkyl group represented by R_{12} to R_{25} is a substituted or unsubstituted, straight chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g., a methyl group, an ethyl group, an n-propyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-butyl group, an isobutyl group, a sec-butyl group and a t-butyl group can be exemplified.

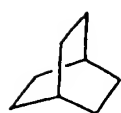
The examples of the substituents of the substituted alkyl group include an alkoxyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a halogen atom (e.g., fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine), an acyl group, an acyloxy group, a cyano group, a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, and a nitro group.

The alicyclic hydrocarbon group represented by R_{11} to R_{25} and the alicyclic hydrocarbon group formed by Z and carbon atoms may be monocyclic or polycyclic. Specifically, groups having a monocyclo, bicyclo, tricyclo, or tetracyclo structure and 5 or more carbon atoms, preferably from 6 to 30, and particularly

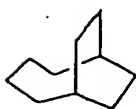
preferably from 7 to 25, can be exemplified. These alicyclic hydrocarbon groups may have a substituent.

The structural examples of alicyclic moieties of the alicyclic hydrocarbon groups are shown below.

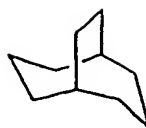




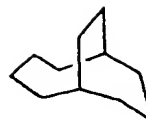
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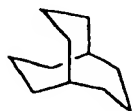
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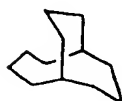
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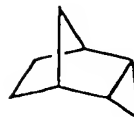
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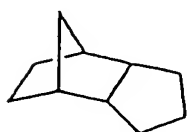
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(34)



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(37)



(38)



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(40)



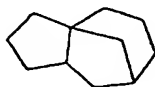
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(42)



(43)



(44)



(45)



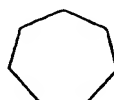
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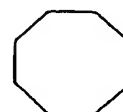
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(48)



(49)



(50)

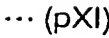
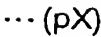
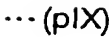
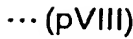
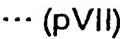
An adamantyl group, a noradamantyl group, a decalin residue, a tricyclodecanyl group, a tetracyclododecanyl group, a norbornyl group, a cedrol group, a cyclohexyl group, a cycloheptyl group, a cyclooctyl group, a cyclodecanyl group, and a cyclododecanyl group are exemplified as the preferred of the above alicyclic moieties in the present invention, and an adamantyl group, a decalin residue, a norbornyl group, a cedrol group, a cyclohexyl group, a cycloheptyl group, a cyclooctyl group, a cyclodecanyl group, and a cyclododecanyl group are more preferred.

The examples of the substituents of these alicyclic hydrocarbon groups include an alkyl group, a substituted alkyl group, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxyl group, a carboxyl group, and an alkoxycarbonyl group. The alkyl group is preferably a lower alkyl group, e.g., a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, an isopropyl group, and a butyl group, more preferably a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, and an isopropyl group. The examples of the substituents for the substituted alkyl group include a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, and an alkoxyl group. The alkoxyl group is an alkoxyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g., a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, a propoxy group or a butoxy group.

The structure represented by formula (pI), (pII), (pIII), (pIV), (pV) or (pVI) in resin (B) and resin (B1) can be used for protecting an alkali-soluble group. As the alkali-soluble group, various alkali-soluble groups well known in this field of art are exemplified.

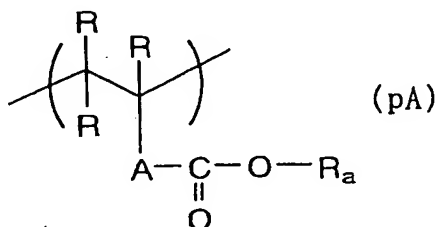
Specifically, a carboxylic acid group, a sulfonic acid group, a phenol group, and a thiol group are exemplified, preferably a carboxylic acid group and a sulfonic acid group.

The alkali-soluble group protected with the structure represented by formula (pI), (pII), (pIII), (pIV), (pV) or (pVI) in resin (B) and resin (B1) include the groups represented by the following formula (pVII), (pVIII), (pIX), (pX) or (pXI):



In formulae (pVII), (pVIII), (pIX), (pX) and (pXI), R_{11} to R_{25} and Z each has the same meaning as defined above.

In resin (B) and resin (B1), the repeating unit having an alkali-soluble group protected with the structure represented by formula (pI), (pII), (pIII), (pIV), (pV) or (pVI) is preferably represented by the following formula (pA):



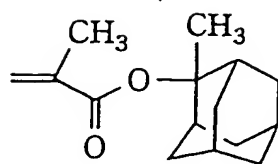
wherein R represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, or a substituted or unsubstituted, straight chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms. A plurality of R's may be the same or different.

A represents a combination of two or more groups selected from the group consisting of a single bond, an alkylene group, a substituted alkylene group, an ether group, a thioether group, a carbonyl group, an ester group, an amido group, a sulfonamido group, a urethane group, and a urea group.

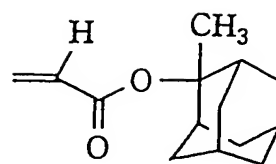
R_a represents a group represented by formula (pI), (pII), (pIII), (pIV), (pV) or (pVI).

The specific examples of the monomers corresponding to the repeating unit represented by formula (pA) are shown below.

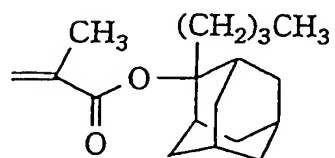
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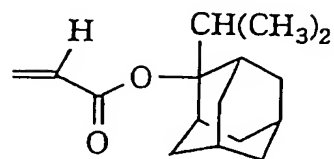
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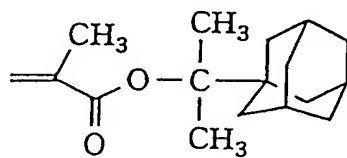
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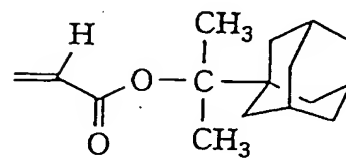
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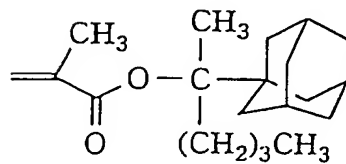
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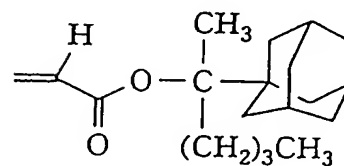
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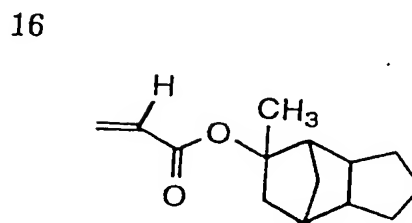
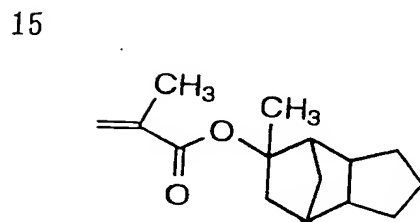
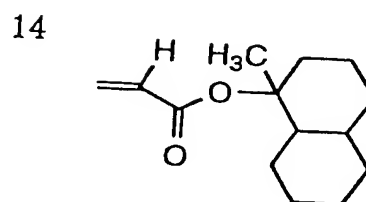
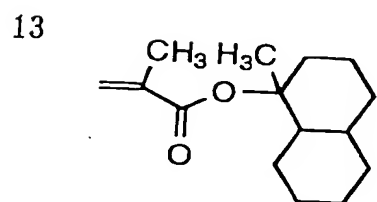
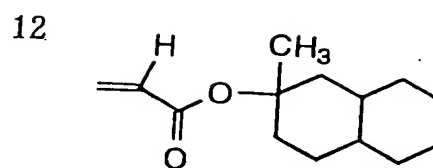
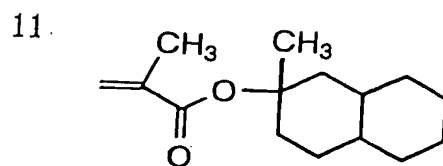
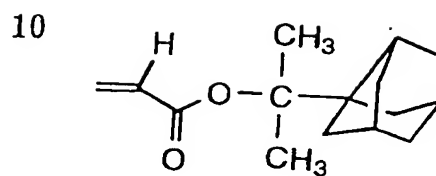
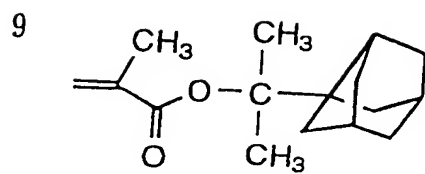


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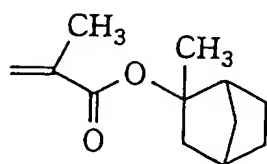


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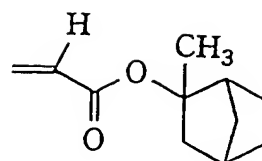




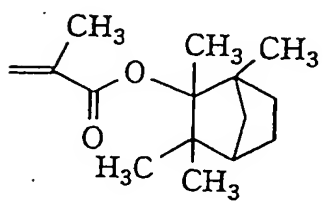
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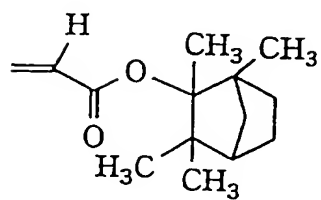
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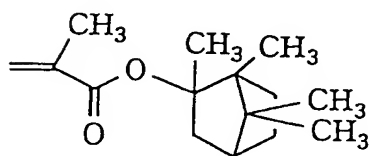
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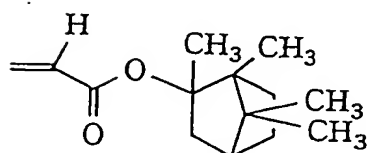
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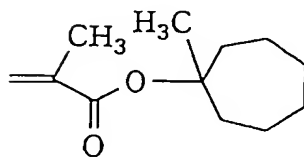
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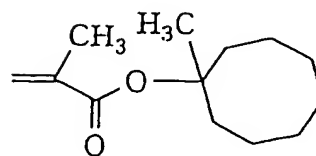
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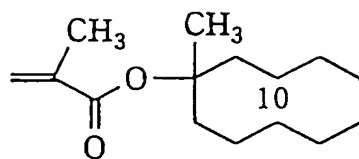
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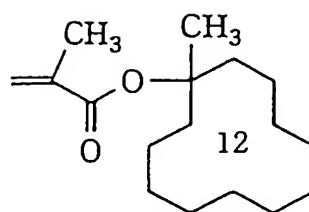
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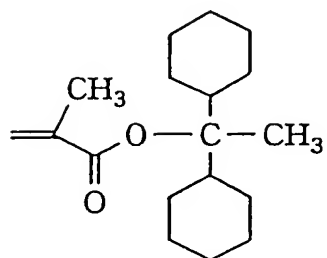
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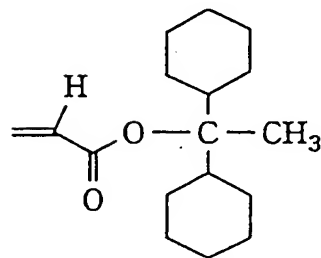
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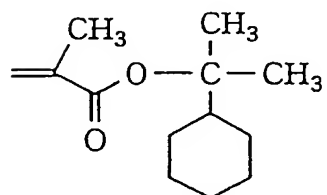
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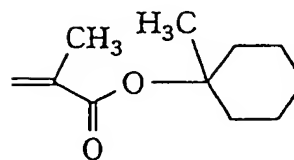
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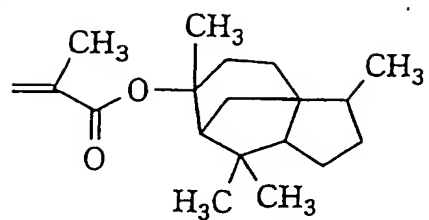
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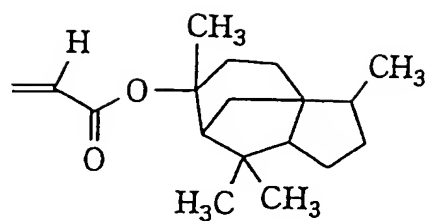
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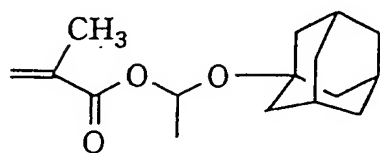
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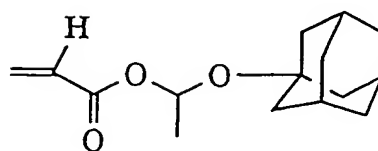
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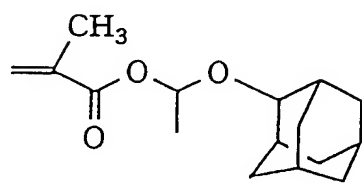
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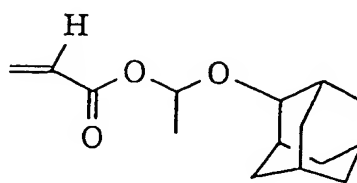
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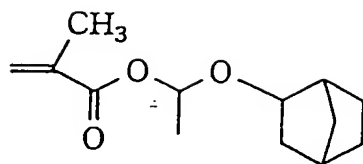
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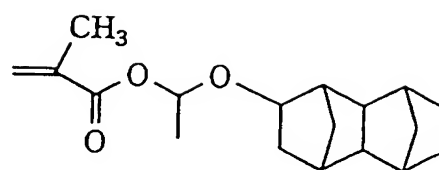
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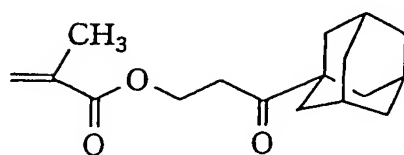
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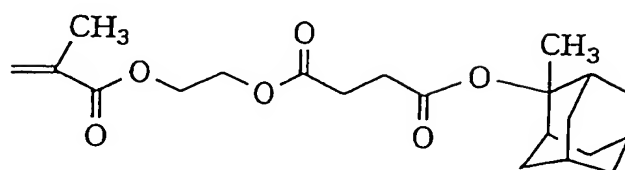
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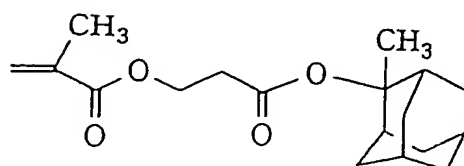
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41



In the above formula (II-AB), R_{11}' and R_{12}' each represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a halogen atom, or an alkyl group which may have a substituent.

Z' contains two bonded carbon atoms (C-C), and represents an atomic group necessary to form an alicyclic structure which may have a substituent.

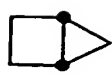
The halogen atom represented by R_{11}' and R_{12}' includes a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, a fluorine atom or an iodine atom.

The alkyl group represented by R_{11}' , R_{12}' , R_{21}' to R_{30}' is preferably a straight chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, more preferably a straight chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and still more preferably a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-butyl group, an isobutyl group, a sec-butyl group or a t-butyl group.

As further substituents of the above alkyl group, a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, an alkoxyl group, an acyl group, a cyano group, and an acyloxy group, can be exemplified. The examples of the halogen atoms include a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, a fluorine atom and an iodine atom. The examples of the alkoxyl groups include an alkoxyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g., a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, a propoxy group and a butoxy group. The examples of the acyl group include a formyl group and an acetyl group, and the acyloxy group includes an acetoxy group.

The atomic group represented by Z' to form an alicyclic structure is an atomic group for forming a repeating unit of an alicyclic hydrocarbon which may have a substituent to a resin and, above all, an atomic group for forming a bridge-containing alicyclic structure for forming a bridge-containing alicyclic hydrocarbon repeating unit is preferred.

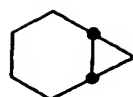
The examples of the skeletons of the alicyclic hydrocarbons to be formed include the following structures.



(1)



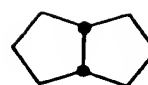
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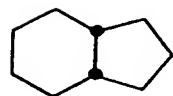
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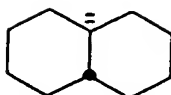
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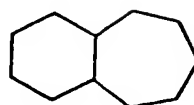
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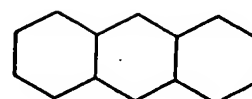
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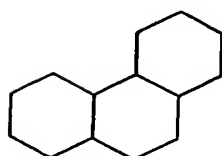
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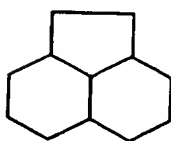
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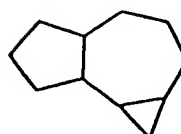
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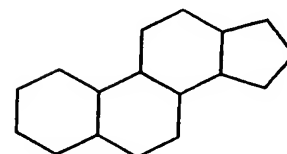
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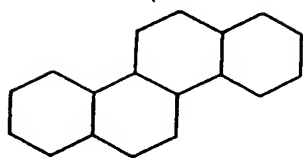
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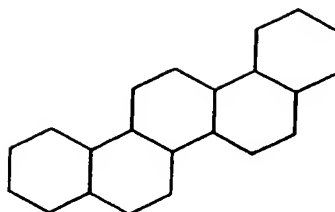
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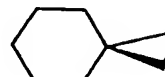
(13)



(14)



(15)



(16)



(17)



(18)



(19)



(20)



(21)



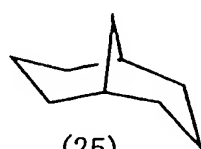
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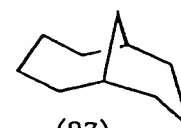
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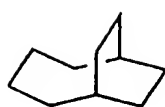
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(27)



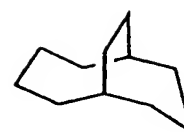
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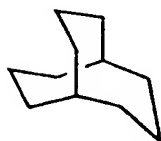
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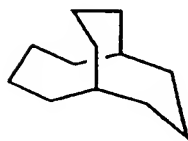
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(31)



(32)



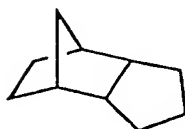
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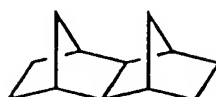
(34)



(35)



(36)



(37)



(38)



(39)



(40)



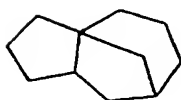
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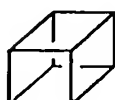
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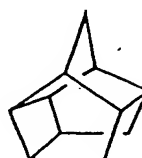
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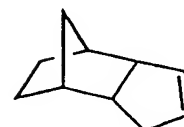
(44)



(45)



(46)



(47)

Of the above structures, preferred skeletons of bridge-containing alicyclic hydrocarbons are (5), (6), (7), (9), (10), (13), (14), (15), (23), (28), (36), (37), (42) and (47).

The alicyclic hydrocarbons skeletons may have a substituent, e.g., R_{13}' , R_{14}' , R_{15}' and R_{16}' in formula (II-A) and (II-B) can be exemplified as the substituents.

Of the repeating units having a bridge-containing alicyclic hydrocarbon, the repeating units represented by formula (II-A) or (II-B) are more preferred.

In formula (II-A) or (II-B), R_{13}' , R_{14}' , R_{15}' and R_{16}' each represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, $-\text{COOH}$, $-\text{COOR}_5$, a group which decomposes by the action of an acid, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{X}-\text{A}'-\text{R}_{17}'$, an alkyl group which may have a substituent, or an alicyclic hydrocarbon group which may have a substituent, R_5 represents an alkyl group which may have a substituent, a cyclic hydrocarbon group which may have a substituent, or a $-\text{Y}$ group; X represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, $-\text{NH}-$, $-\text{NHSO}_2-$ or $-\text{NHSO}_2\text{NH}-$; A' represents a single bond or a divalent linking group; at least two of R_{13}' , R_{14}' , R_{15}' and R_{16}' may be bonded to each other to form a ring; n represents 0 or 1; R_{17}' represents $-\text{COOH}$, $-\text{COOR}_5$, $-\text{CN}$, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxyl group which may have a substituent, $-\text{CO}-\text{NH}-\text{R}_6$, $-\text{CO}-\text{NH}-\text{SO}_2-\text{R}_6$, or a $-\text{Y}$ group; R_6 represents an alkyl group which may have a substituent or a cyclic hydrocarbon group which may have a substituent.

In the above $-\text{Y}$ group, R_{21}' to R_{30}' each represents a

hydrogen atom or an alkyl group which may have a substituent, and a and b each represents 1 or 2.

In the resin according to the present invention, an acid-decomposable group may be contained in $-C(=O)-X-A'-R_{17}'$ or contained as the substituent of Z' in formula (II-AB).

The acid-decomposable group is represented by $-C(=O)-X_1-R_0$, wherein R_0 represents a tertiary alkyl group, e.g., a t-butyl group or a t-amyl group; a 1-alkoxyethyl group, e.g., a 1-ethoxyethyl group, a 1-butoxyethyl group, a 1-isobutoxyethyl group, or a 1-cyclohexylethyl group; an alkoxymethyl group, e.g., a 1-methoxymethyl group or a 1-ethoxymethyl group; a 3-oxoalkyl group, a tetrahydropyranyl group, a tetrahydrofuranyl group, a trialkylsilyl ester group, a 3-oxocyclohexyl ester group, a 2-methyl-2-adamantyl group, or a mevalonic lactone residue. X_1 has the same meaning as X described above.

The examples of the halogen atoms represented by R_{13}' , R_{14}' , R_{15}' and R_{16}' include a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, a fluorine atom and an iodine atom.

The alkyl group represented by R_5 , R_6 , R_{13}' , R_{14}' , R_{15}' and R_{16}' is preferably a straight chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, more preferably a straight chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and still more preferably a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-butyl group, an isobutyl group, a sec-butyl group or a t-butyl group.

The cyclic hydrocarbon group represented by R_5 , R_6 , R_{13}' ,

R_{14}' , R_{15}' and R_{16}' is a cyclic alkyl group or a bridge-containing alicyclic hydrocarbon, specifically, a cyclopropyl group, a cyclopentyl group, a cyclohexyl group, an adamantyl group, a 2-methyl-2-adamantyl group, a norbornyl group, a boronyl group, an isoboronyl group, a tricyclodecanyl group, a dicyclopentenyl group, a nobornan epoxy group, a menthyl group, an isomenthyl group, a neomenthyl group, or a tetracyclododecanyl group can be exemplified.

As the examples of the rings formed by bonding at least two of R_{13}' , R_{14}' , R_{15}' and R_{16}' , rings having from 5 to 12 carbon atoms, e.g., cyclopentene, cyclohexene, cycloheptane and cyclooctane are exemplified.

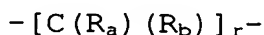
As the alkoxyl group represented by R_{17}' , an alkoxyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g., a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, a propoxy group, or a butoxy group can be exemplified.

As further substituents of the alkyl, cyclic hydrocarbon and alkoxyl groups, a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, an alkoxyl group, an acyl group, a cyano group, an acyloxy group, an alkyl group and a cyclic hydrocarbon group can be exemplified. The examples of the halogen atoms include a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, a fluorine atom and an iodine atom. The examples of the alkoxyl groups include an alkoxyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g., a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, a propoxy group and a butoxy group. The examples of the acyl group include a formyl group and an acetyl group, and the acyloxy group includes an acetoxyl group.

As the alkyl group and the cyclic hydrocarbon group, those described above can be exemplified.

As the divalent linking group represented by A', combination of alone or two or more groups selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, a substituted alkylene group, an ether group, a thioether group, a carbonyl group, an ester group, an amido group, a sulfonamido group, a urethane group and a urea group can be exemplified.

The alkylene group and the substituted alkylene group represented by A' is a group represented by the following formula:

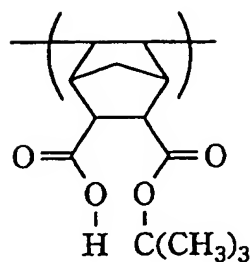


wherein R_a and R_b , which may be the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a substituted alkyl group, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group or an alkoxyl group. The alkyl group is preferably a lower alkyl group, e.g., a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, an isopropyl group, or a butyl group, more preferably a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, or an isopropyl group. The examples of the substituents for the substituted alkyl group include a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, and an alkoxyl group. The alkoxyl group is an alkoxyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g., a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, a propoxy group or a butoxy group. The examples of the halogen atoms include a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, a fluorine atom and an iodine atom. r represents an integer of from 1 to 10.

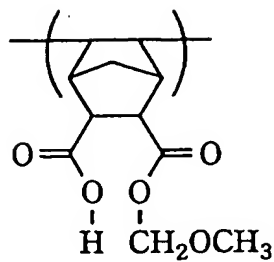
In the resin according to the present invention, the group capable of decomposing by the action of an acid can be contained in at least one repeating unit of a repeating unit having a partial structure containing an alicyclic hydrocarbon represented by formula (pI), (pII), (pIII), (pIV), (pV) or (pVI), a repeating unit represented by formula (II-AB), and a repeating unit comprising the later-described copolymer component.

The various substituents of R_{13}' , R_{14}' , R_{15}' and R_{16}' in formula (II-A) or (II-B) are the substituents of the atomic group for forming an alicyclic structure in formula (II-AB) or atomic group Z for forming a bridge-containing alicyclic structure.

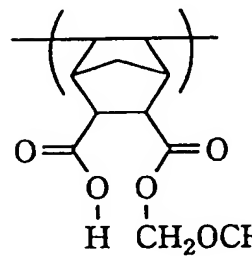
The specific examples of the repeating units represented by formula (II-A) or (II-B) include the following compounds [II-1] to [II-175], however, these compounds should not be construed as limiting the scope of the present invention.



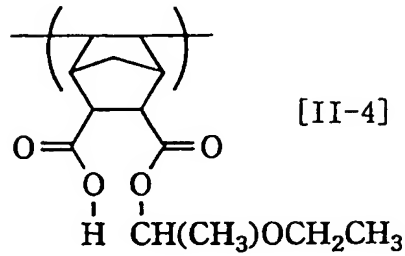
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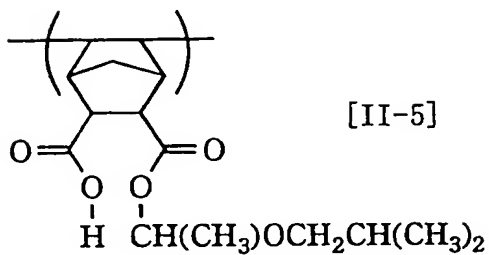
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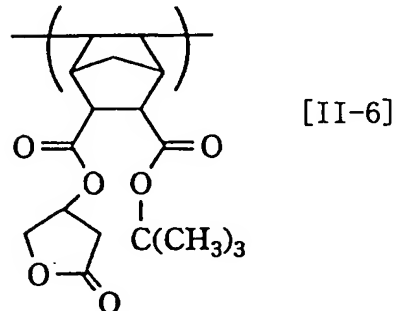
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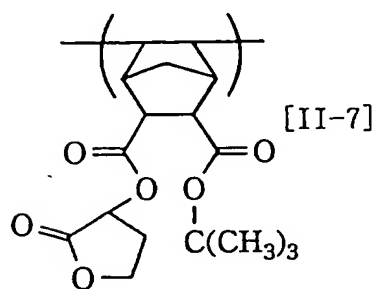
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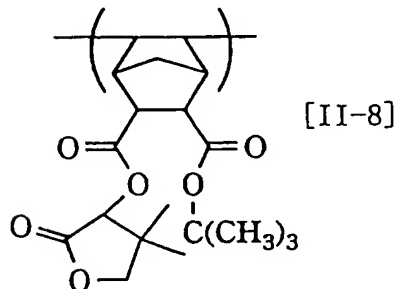
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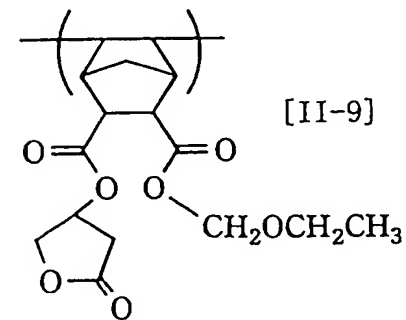
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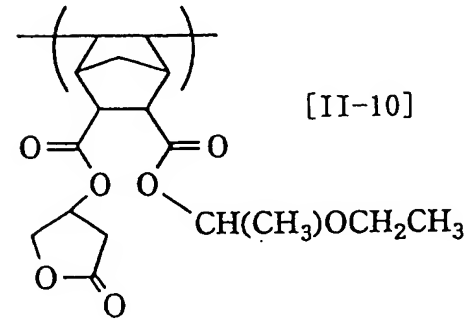
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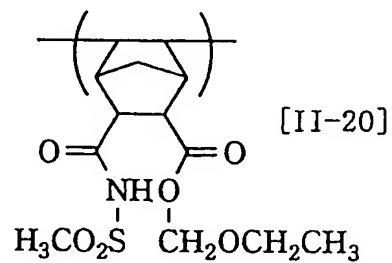
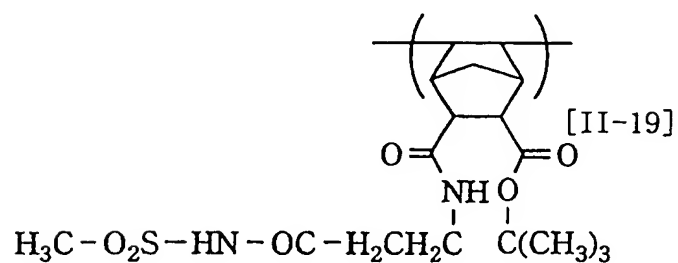
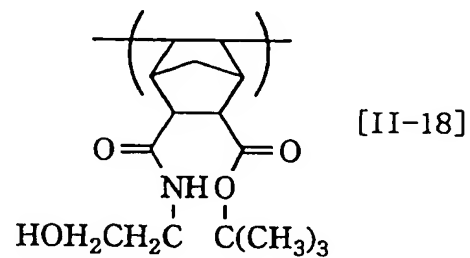
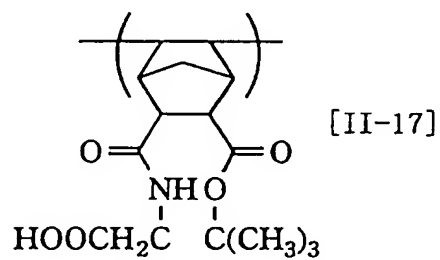
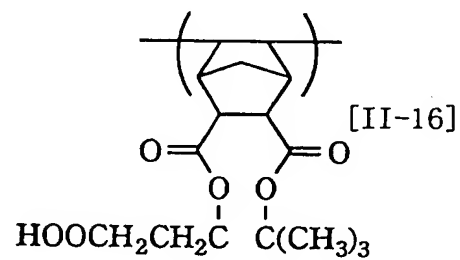
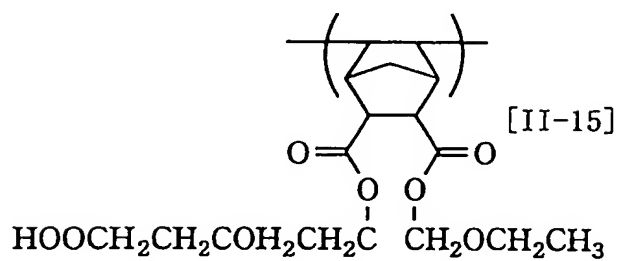
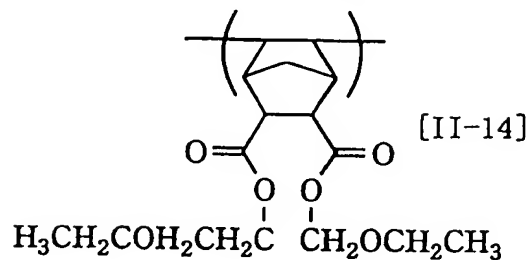
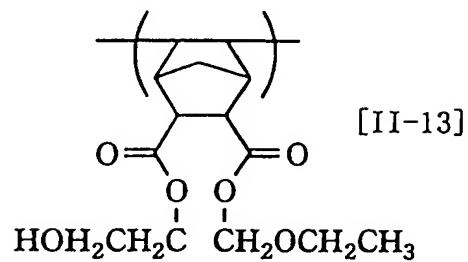
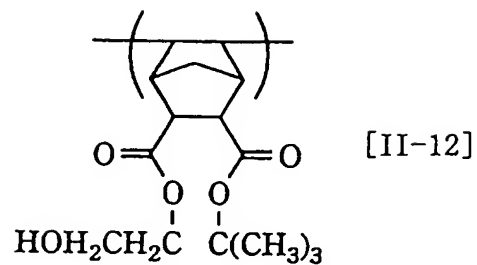
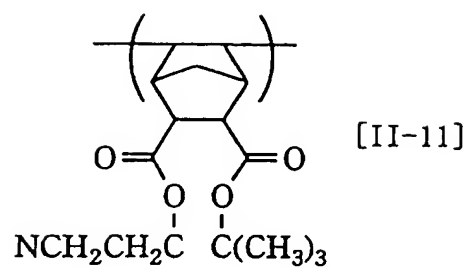
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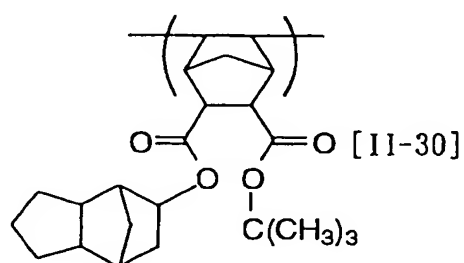
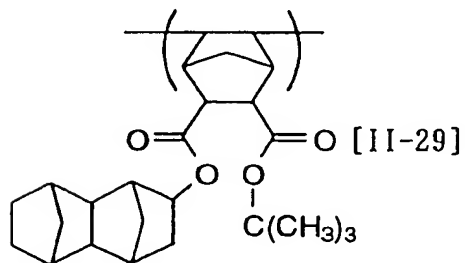
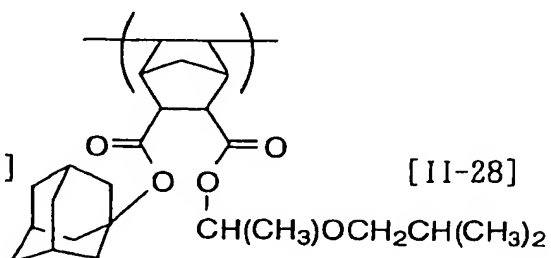
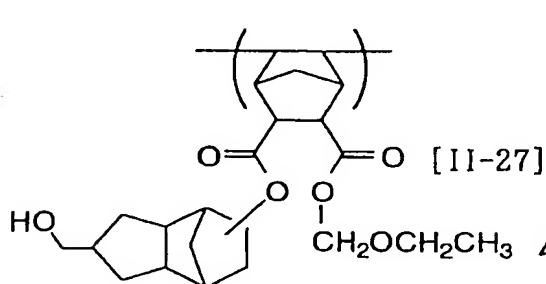
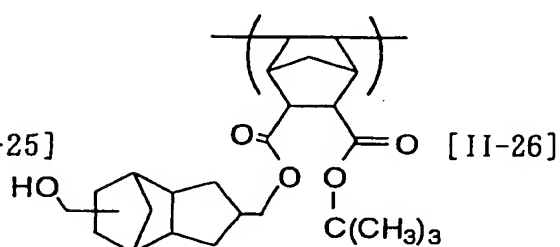
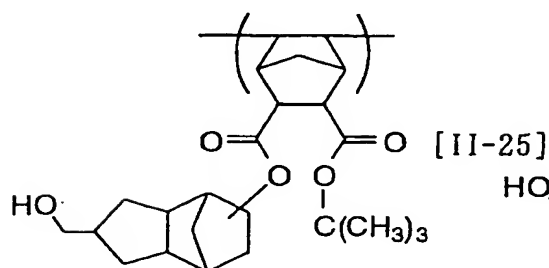
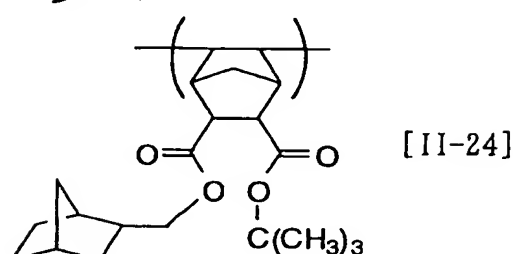
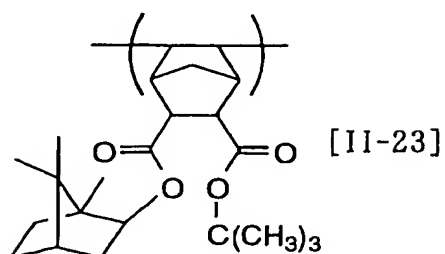
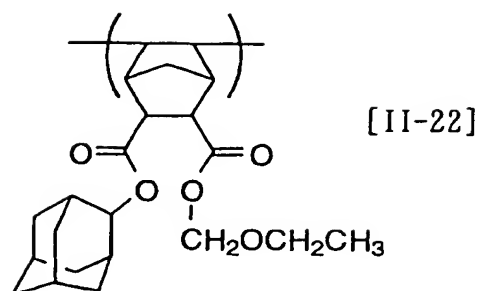
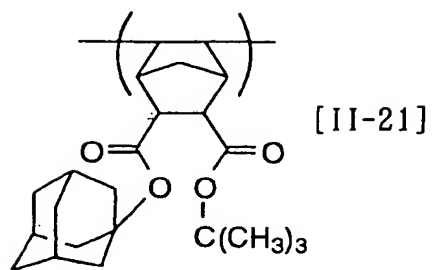


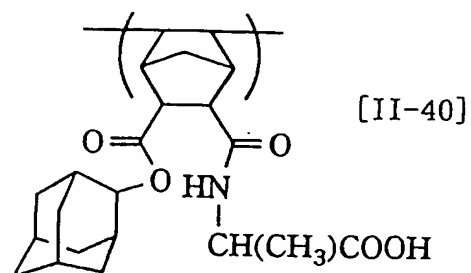
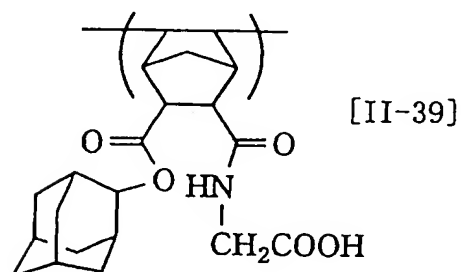
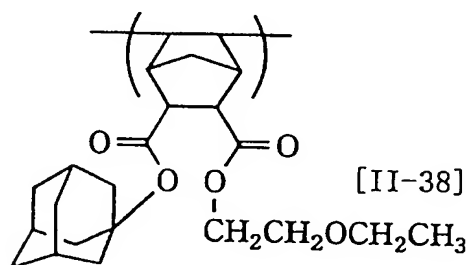
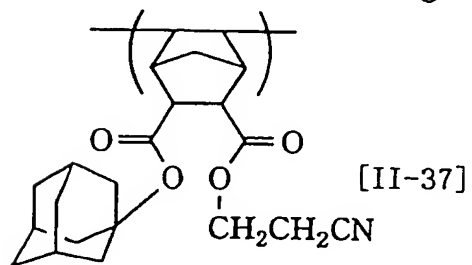
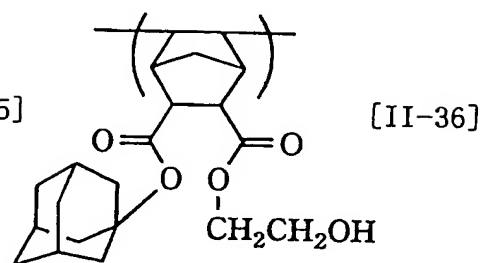
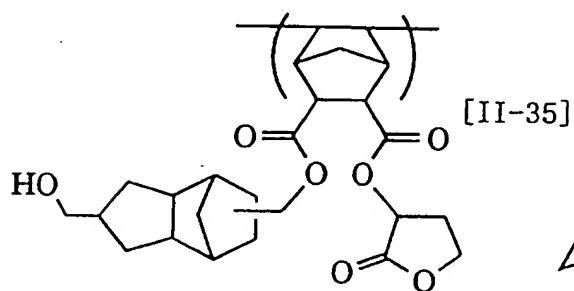
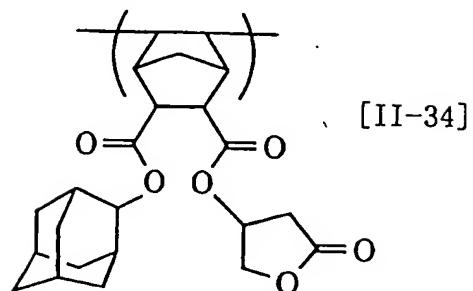
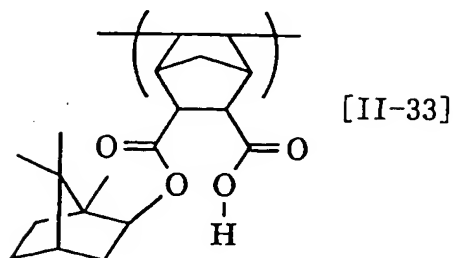
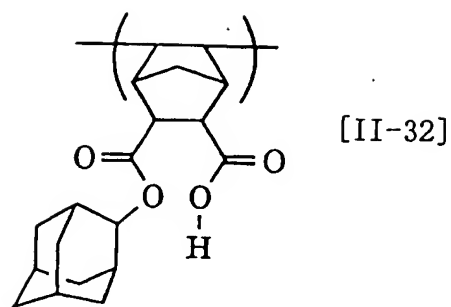
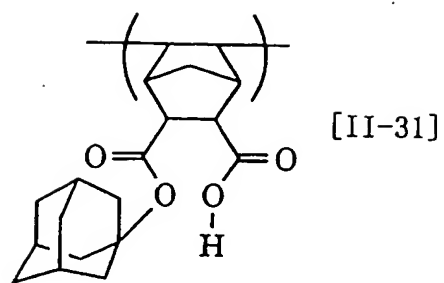
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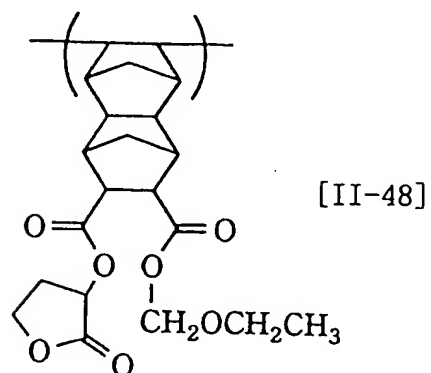
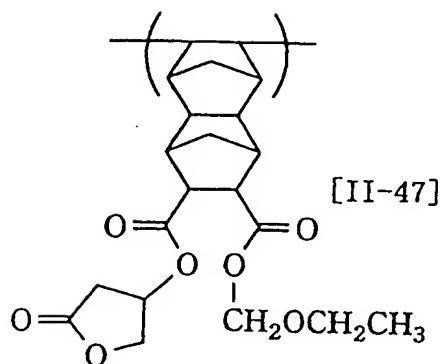
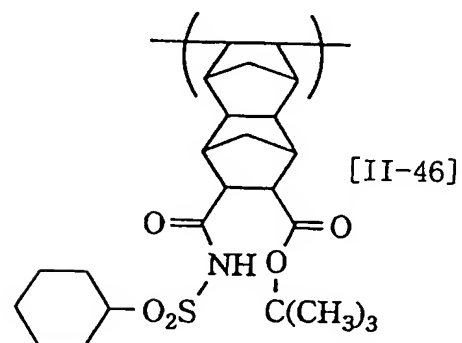
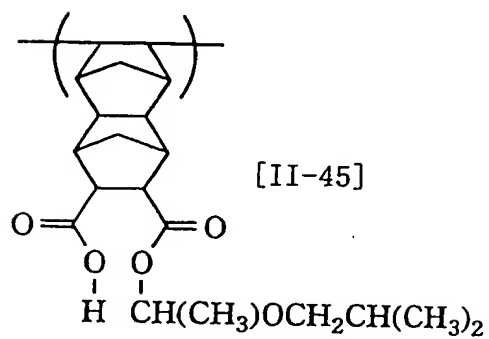
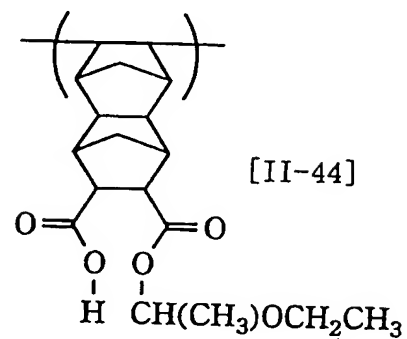
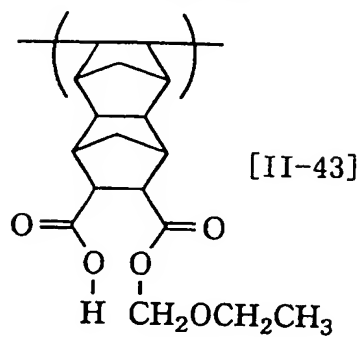
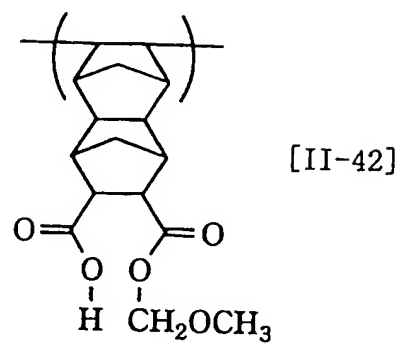
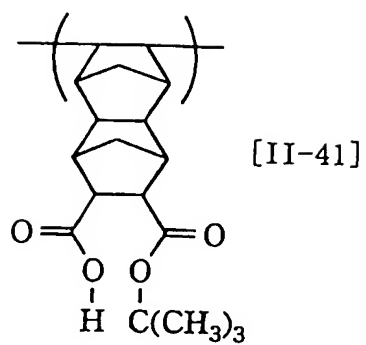


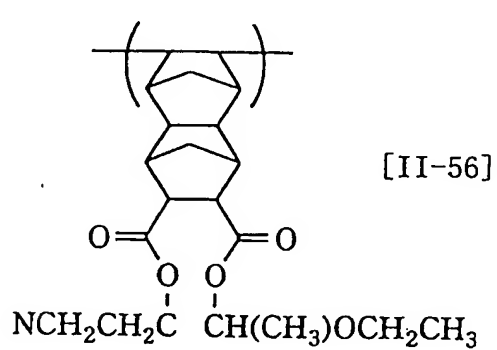
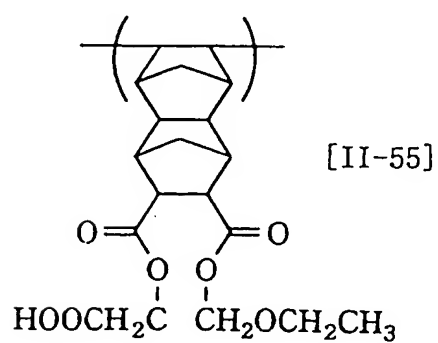
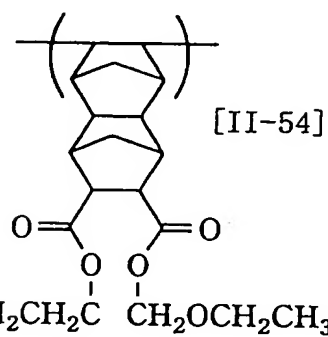
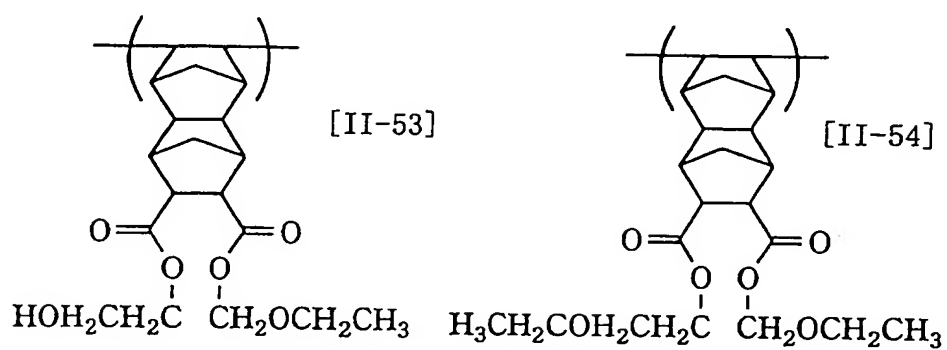
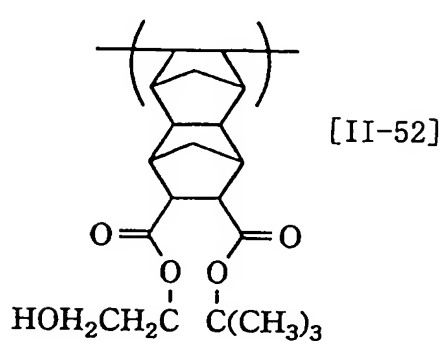
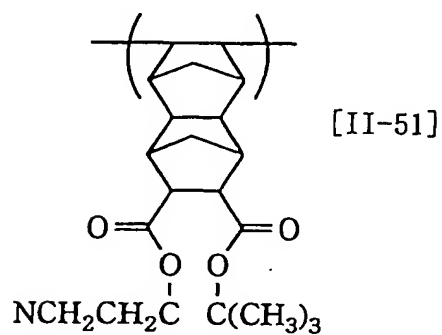
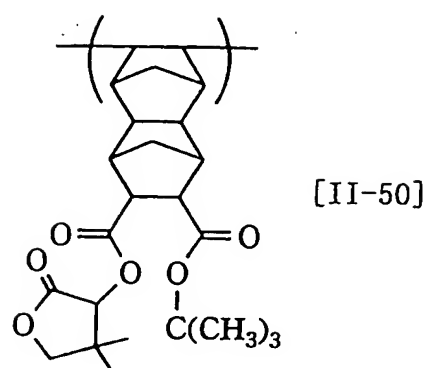
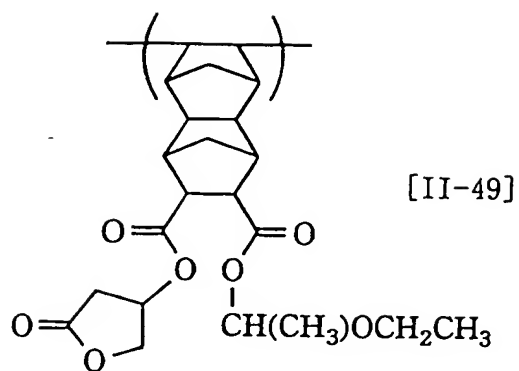
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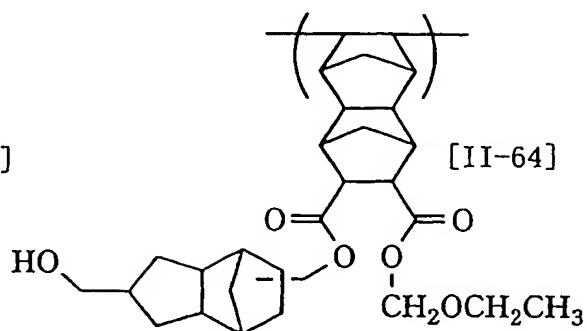
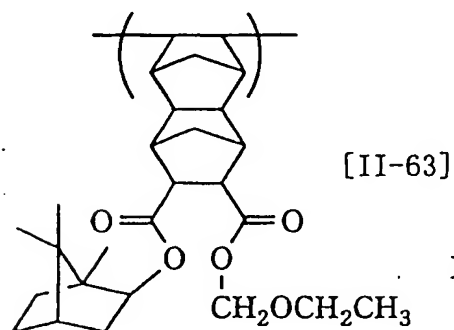
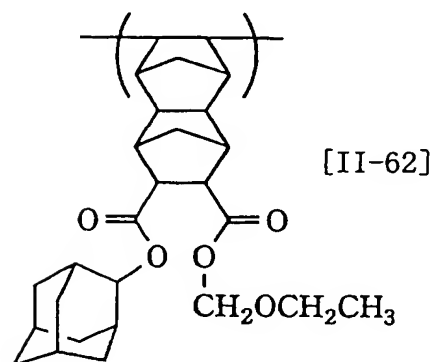
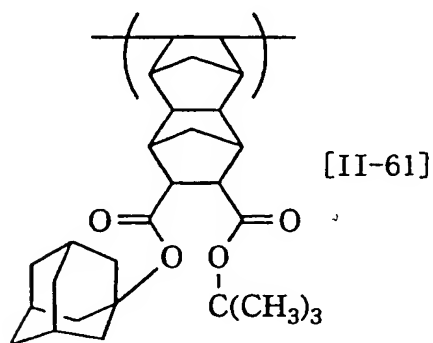
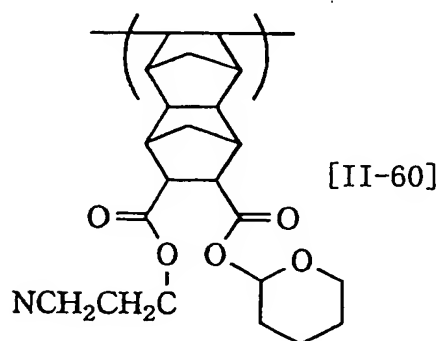
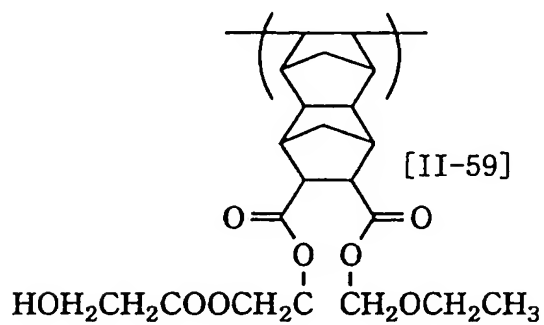
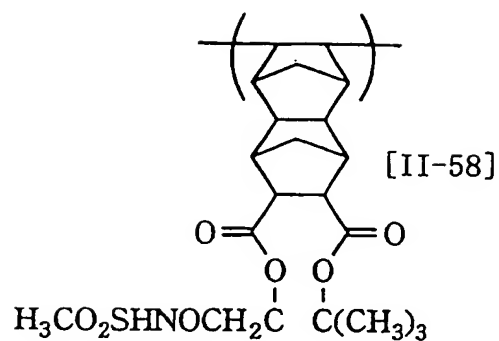
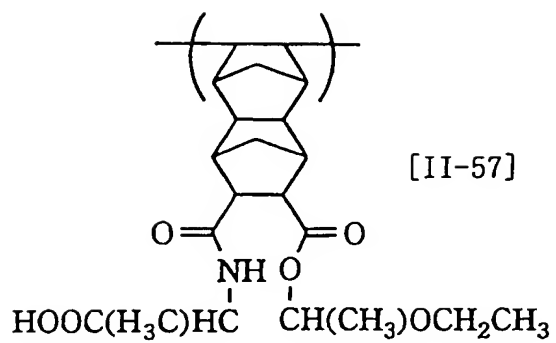


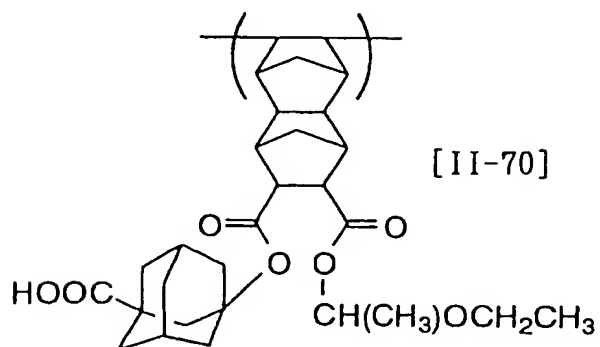
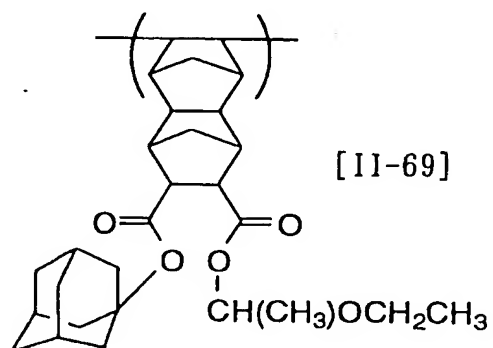
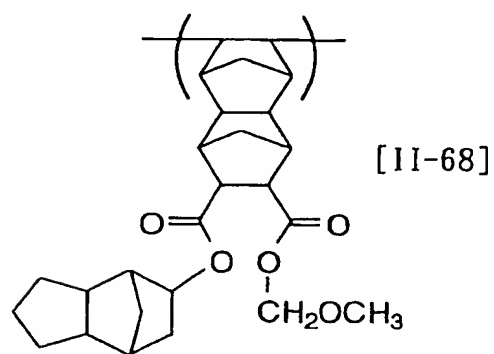
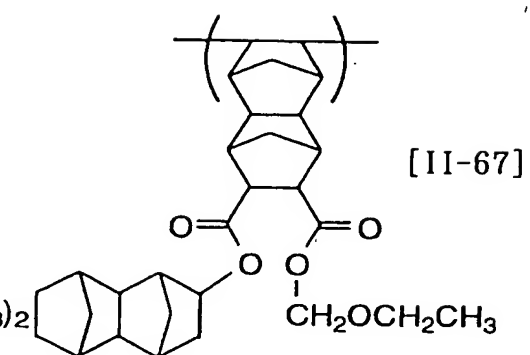
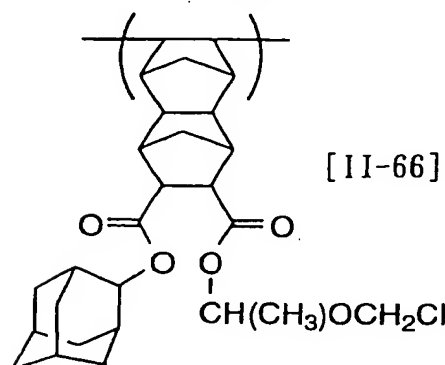
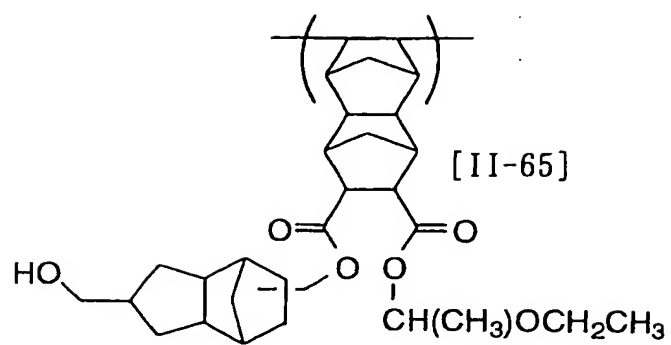


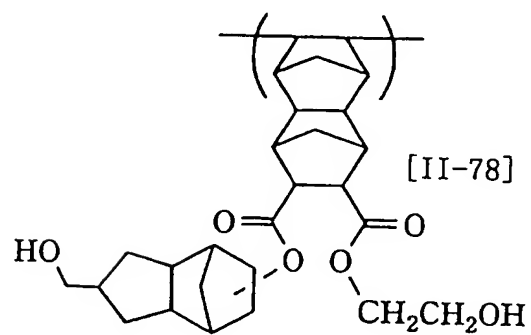
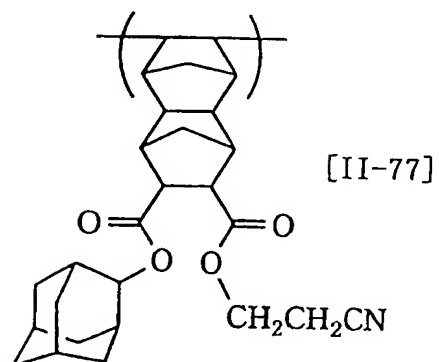
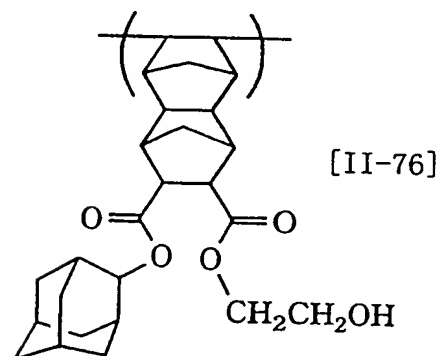
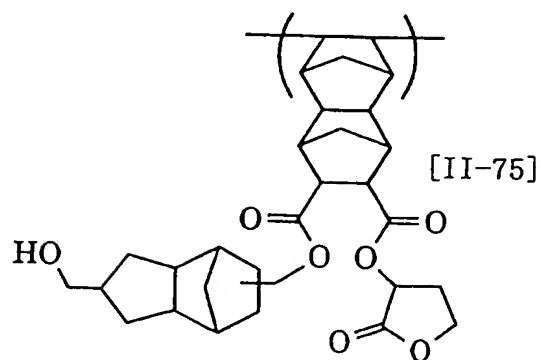
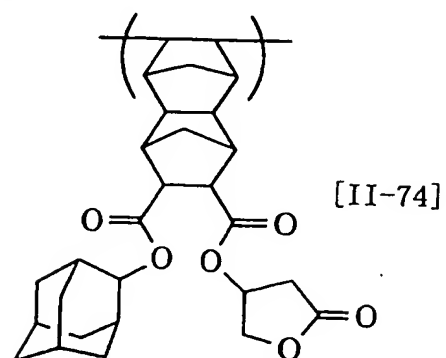
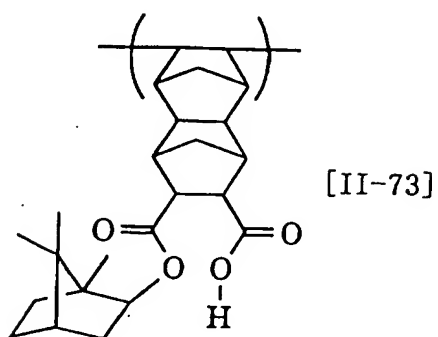
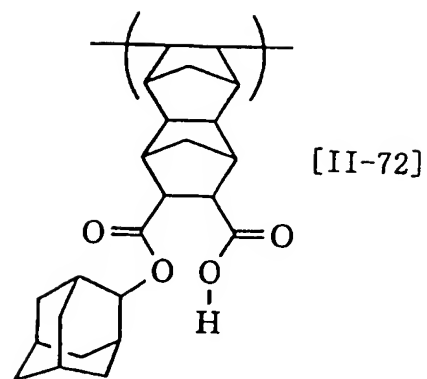
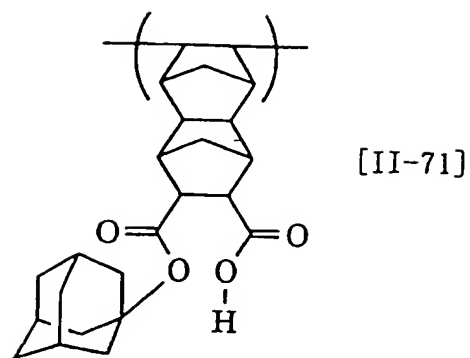


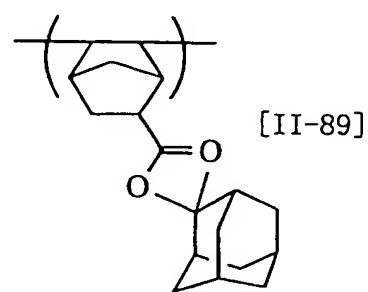
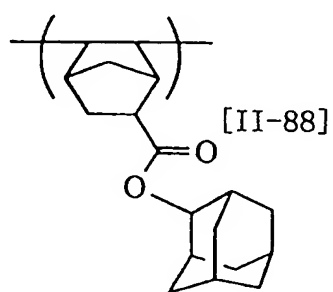
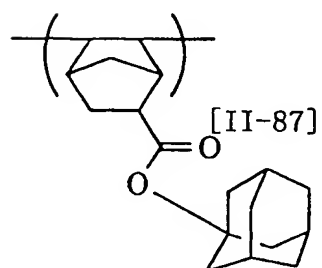
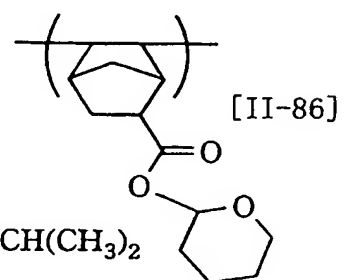
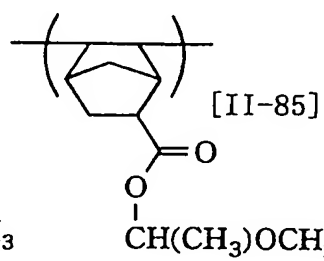
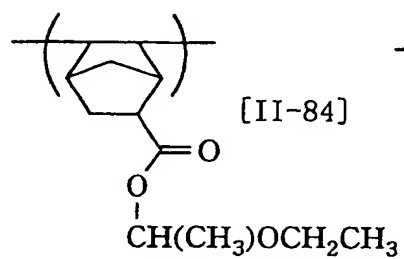
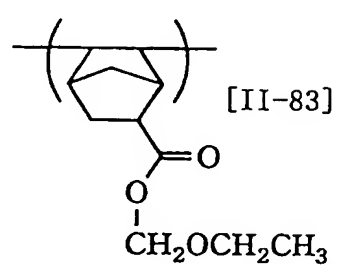
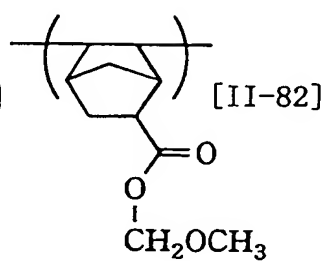
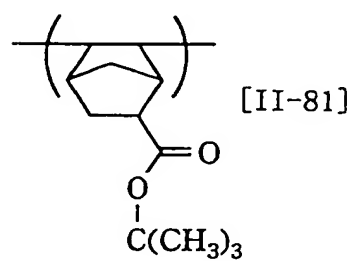
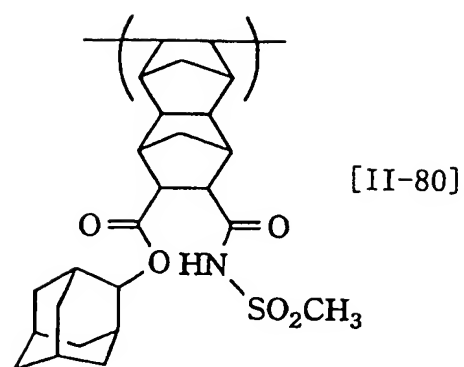
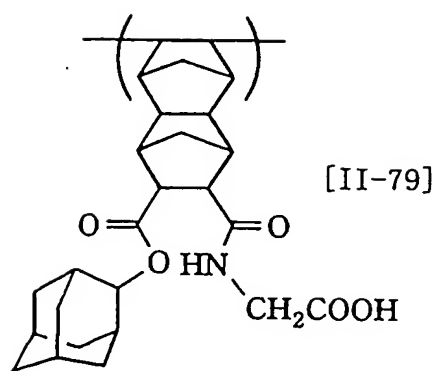


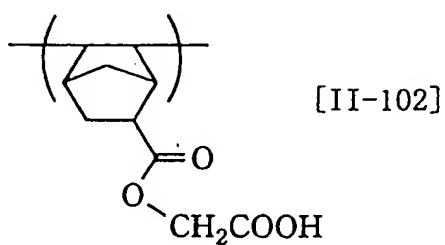
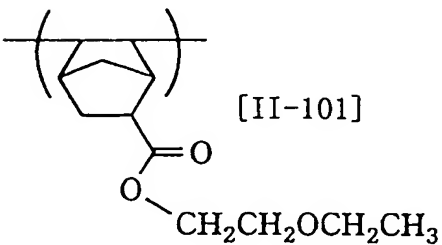
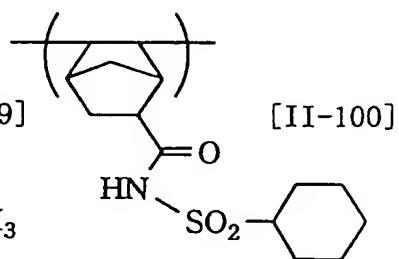
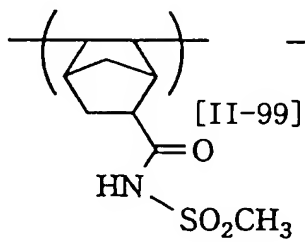
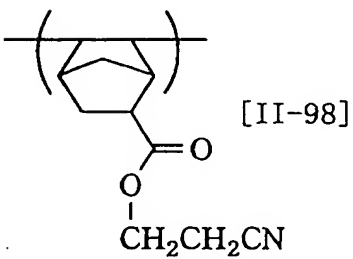
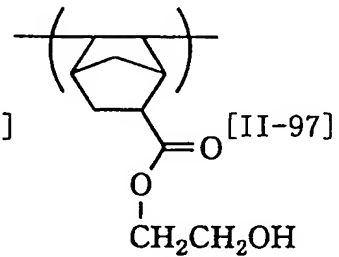
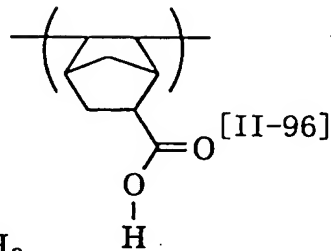
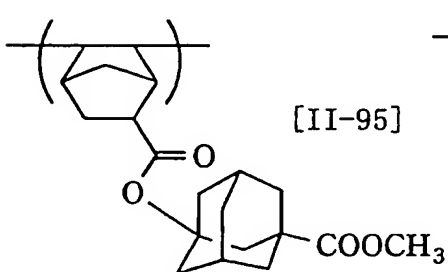
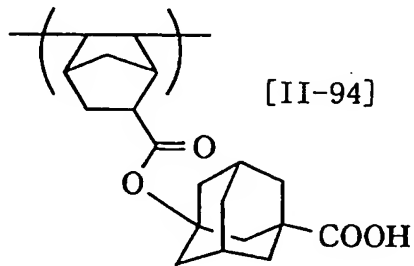
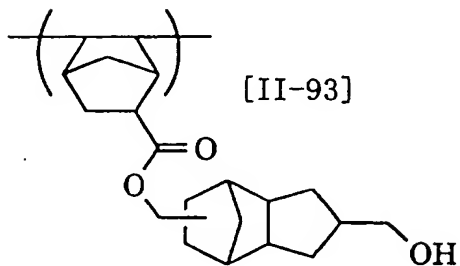
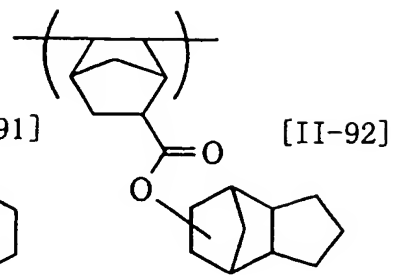
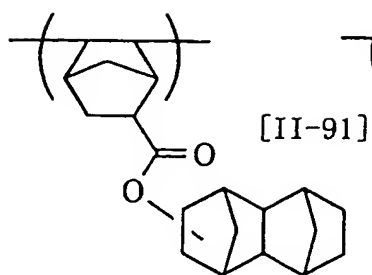
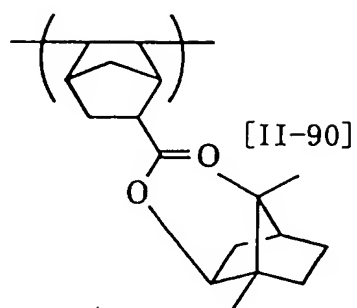


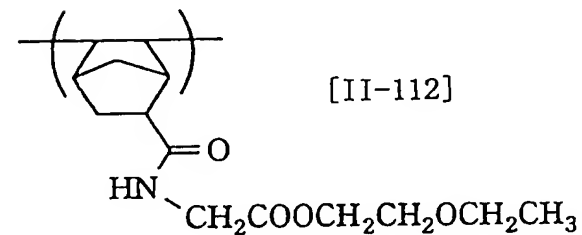
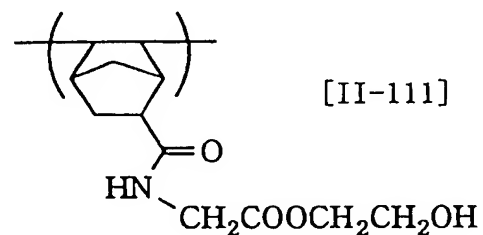
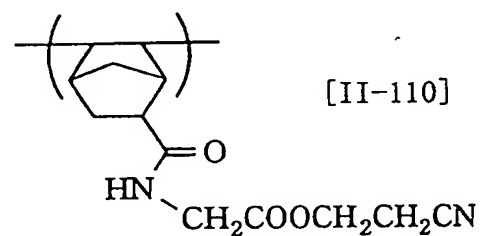
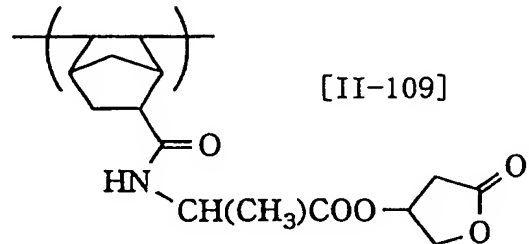
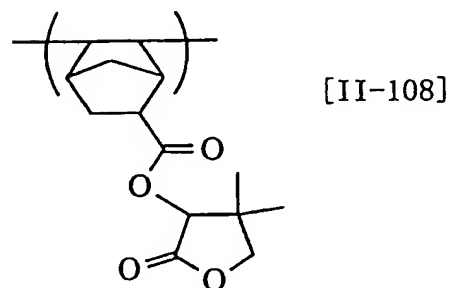
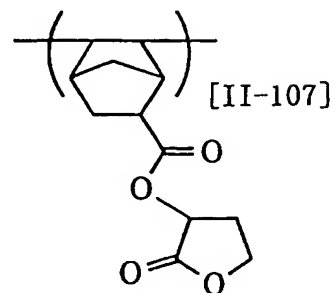
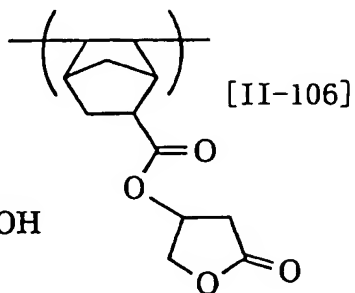
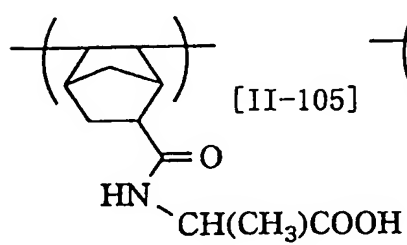
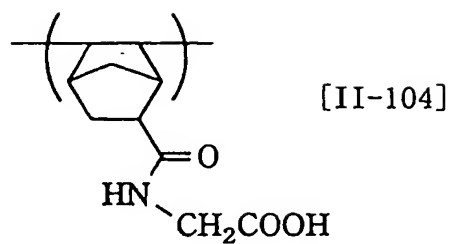
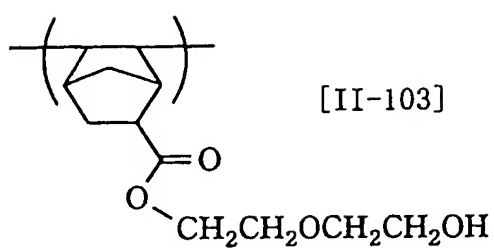


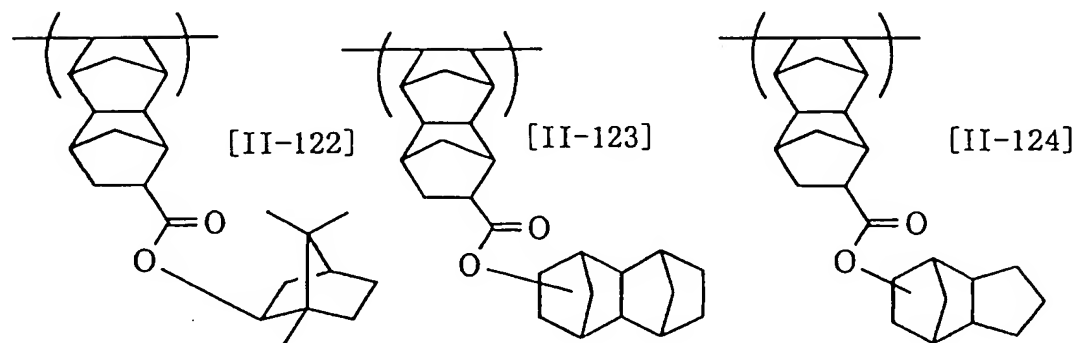
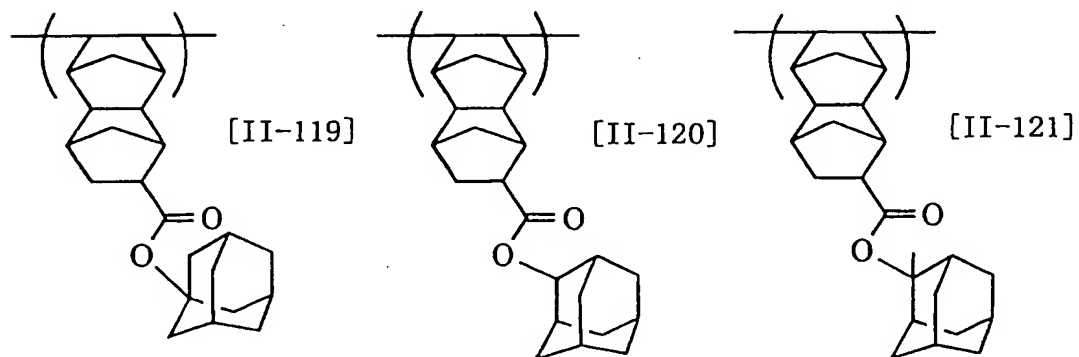
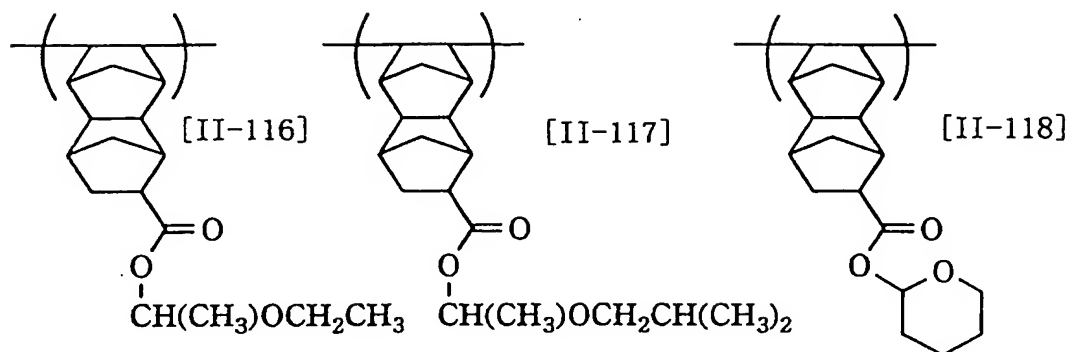
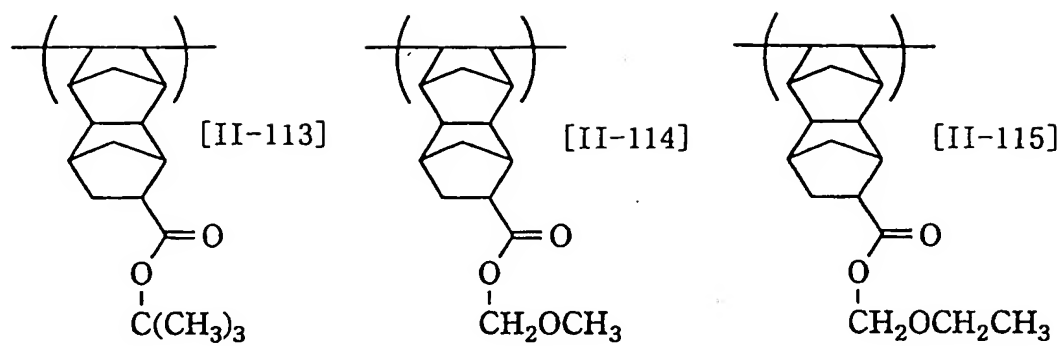


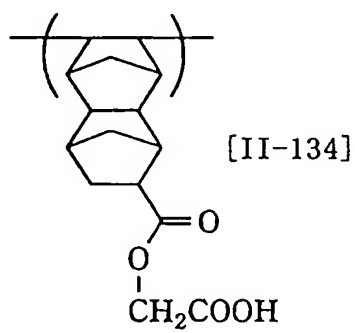
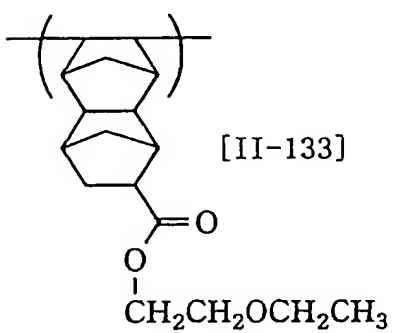
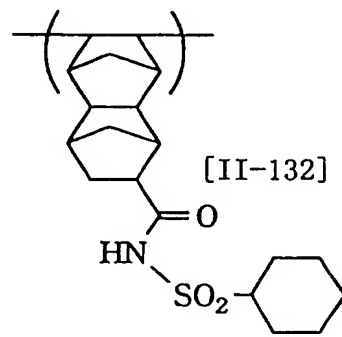
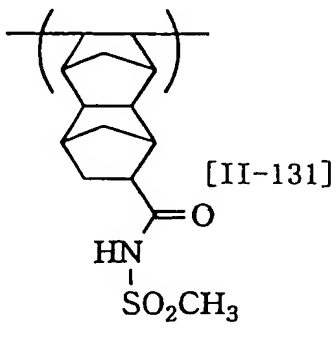
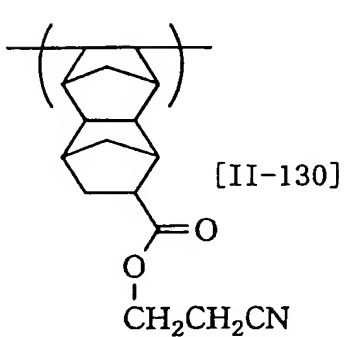
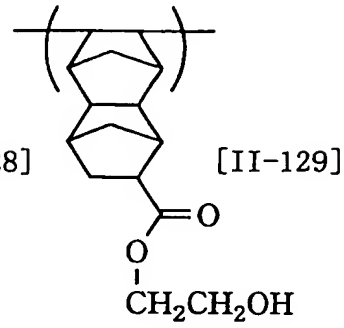
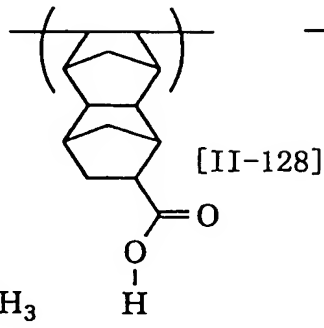
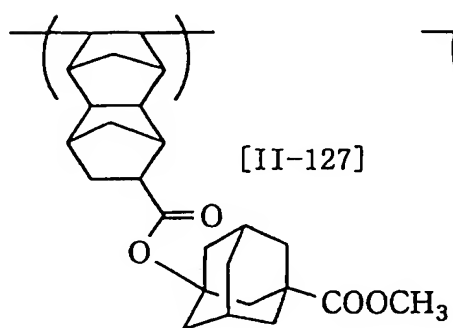
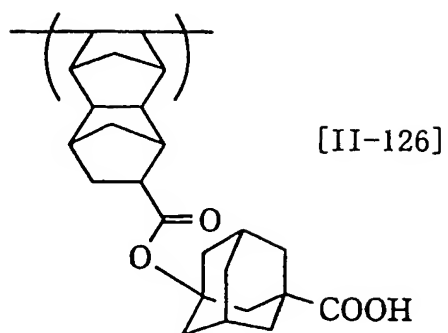
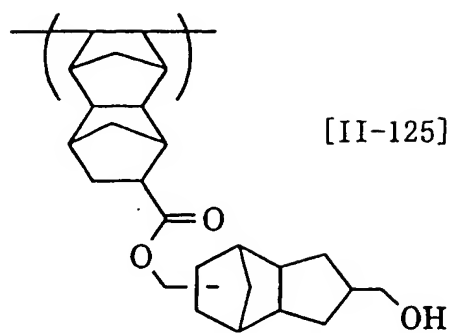


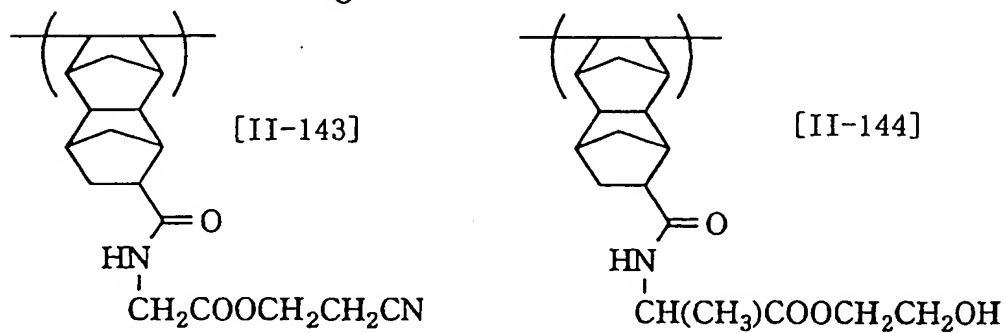
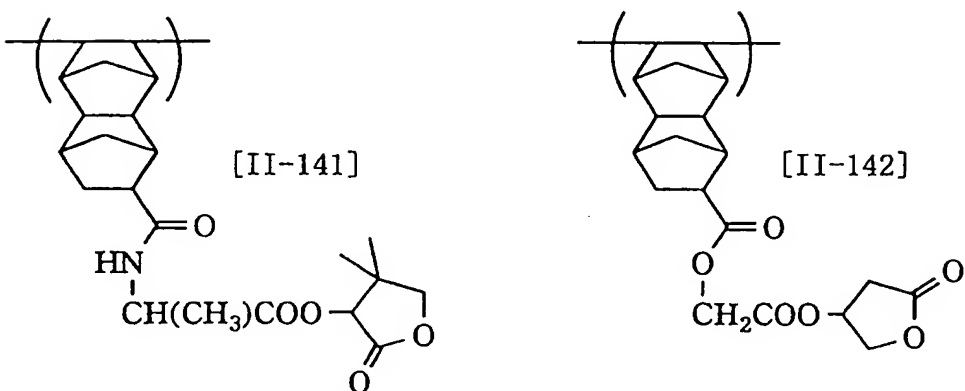
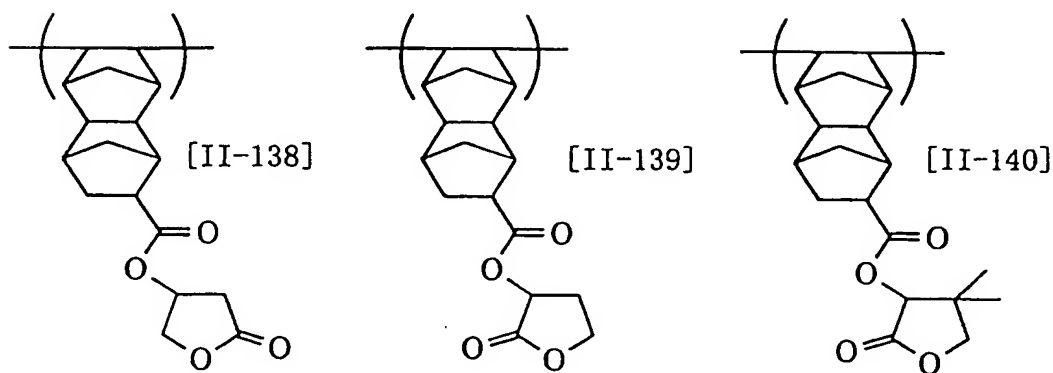
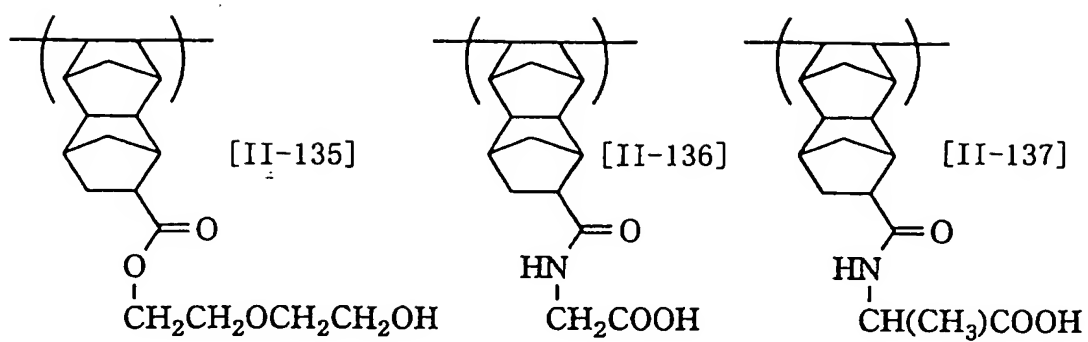


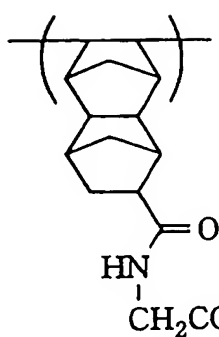




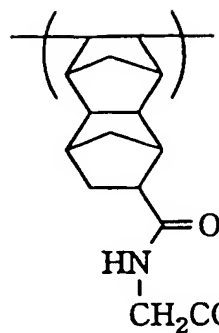








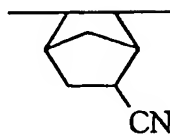
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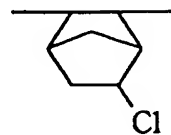
[II-146]



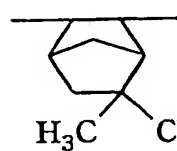
[II-147]



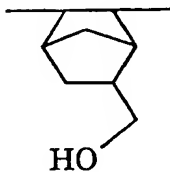
[II-148]



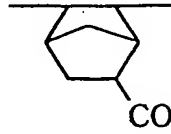
[II-149]



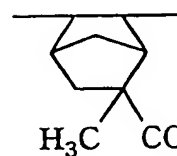
[II-149]



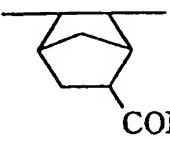
[II-150]



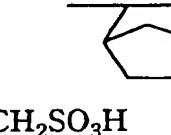
[II-151]



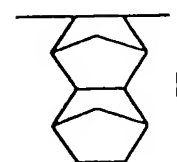
[II-152]



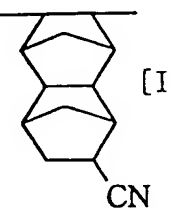
[II-153]



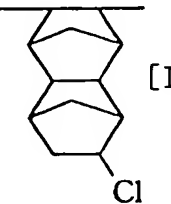
[II-154]



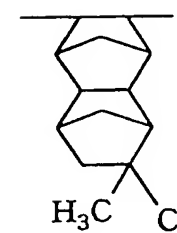
[II-155]



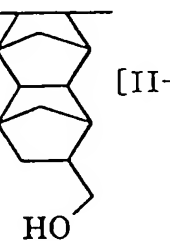
[II-156]



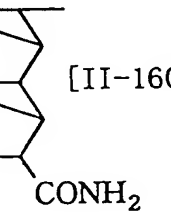
[II-157]



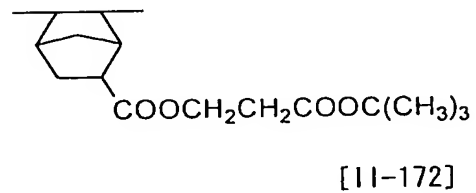
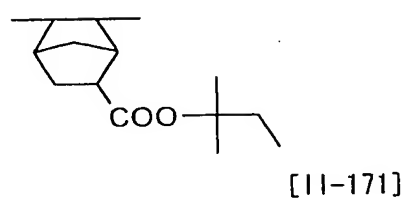
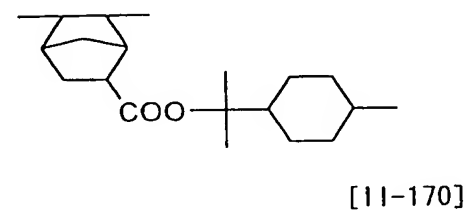
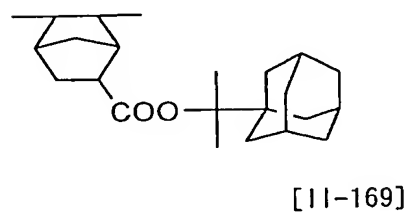
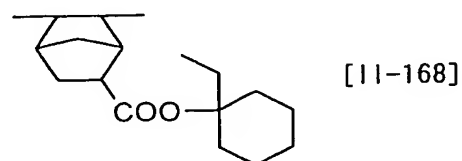
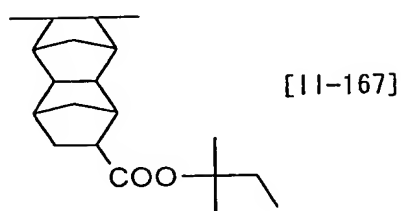
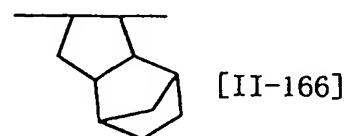
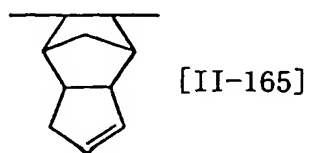
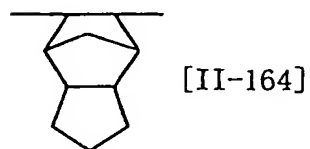
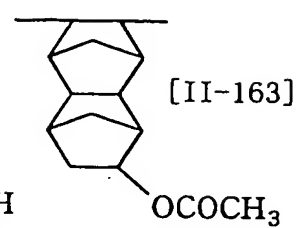
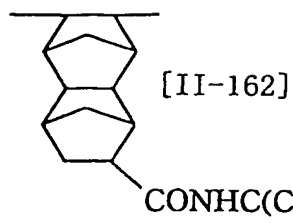
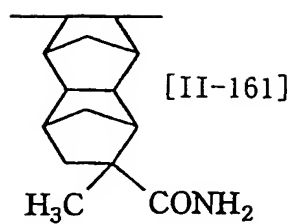
[II-158]

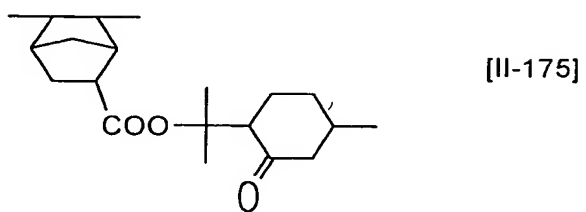
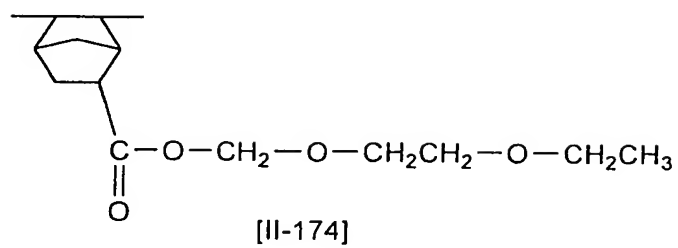
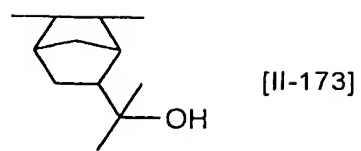


[II-159]

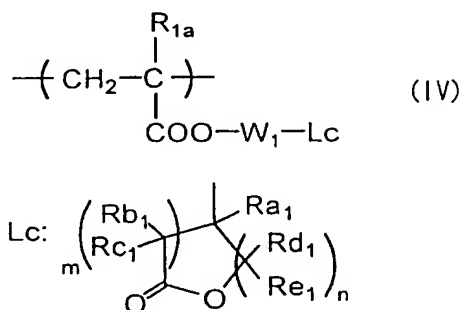


[II-160]





The acid-decomposable resin according to the present invention can contain a repeating unit having a lactone structure represented by the following formula (IV):

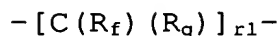


wherein R_{1a} represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; W_1 represents a group or a combination of two or more groups selected from the group consisting of a single bond, an alkylene group, an ether group, a thioether group, a carbonyl group, and an ester group; Ra_1 , Rb_1 , Rc_1 , Rd_1 and Re_1 each represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and m and n each represents an integer of from 0 to 3, and $m+n$ is from 2 to 6.

The examples of the alkyls group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms represented by Ra_1 , Rb_1 , Rc_1 , Rd_1 and Re_1 include a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-butyl group, an isobutyl group, a sec-butyl group and a t-butyl group.

The alkylene group represented by W_1 in formula (IV)

is a group represented by the following formula:



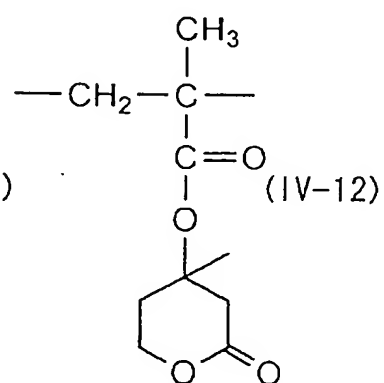
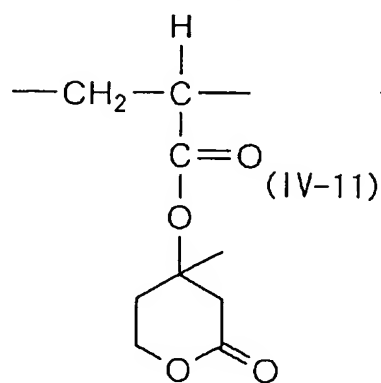
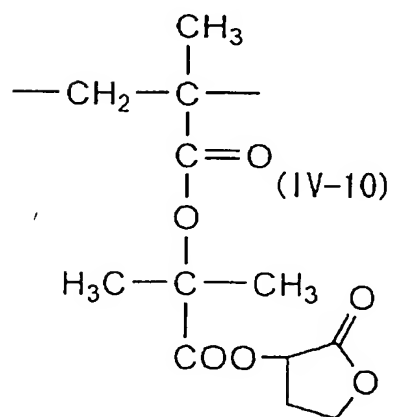
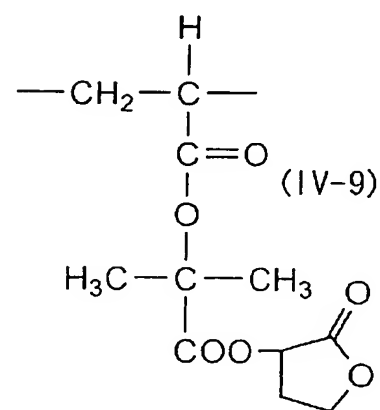
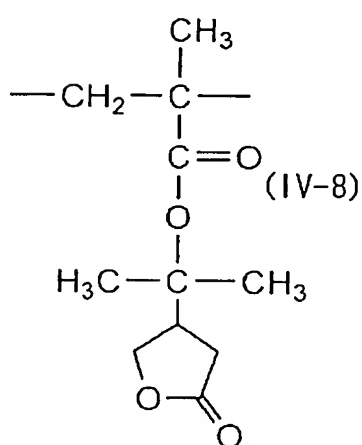
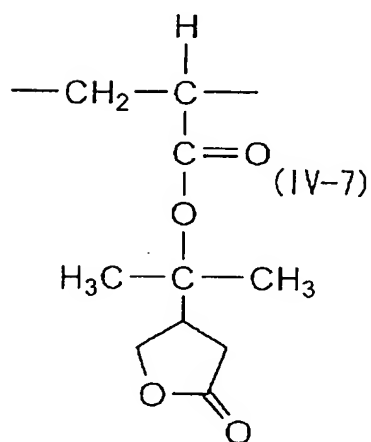
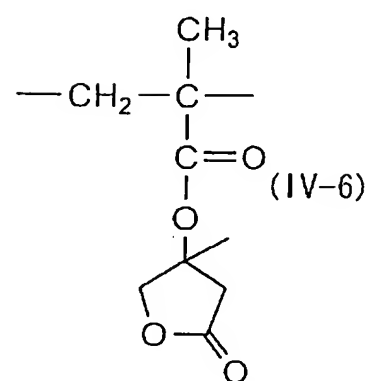
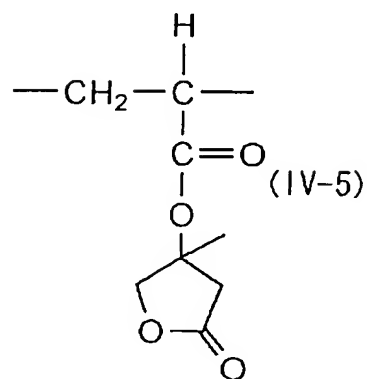
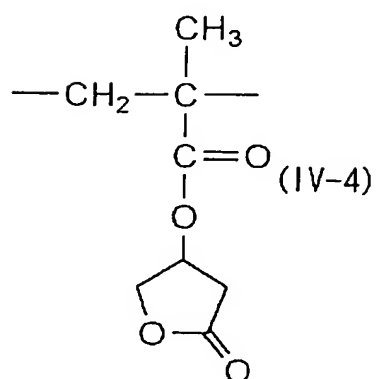
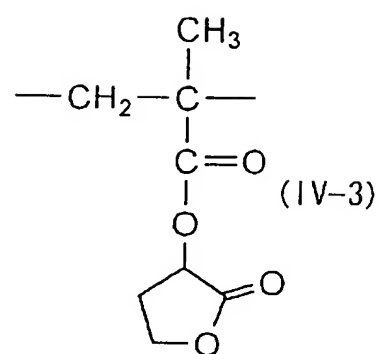
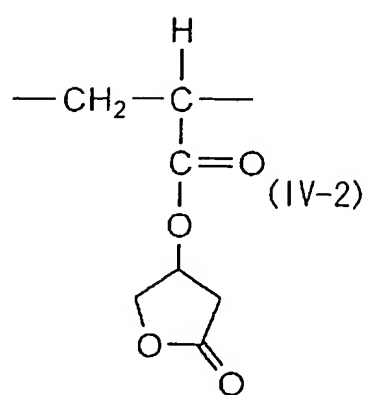
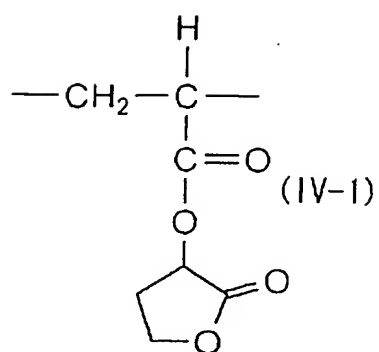
wherein R_f and R_g , which may be the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a substituted alkyl group, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group or an alkoxyl group. The alkyl group is preferably a lower alkyl group, e.g., a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, an isopropyl group, or a butyl group, more preferably a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, or an isopropyl group. The examples of the substituents for the substituted alkyl group include a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, and an alkoxyl group. The alkoxyl group is an alkoxyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g., a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, a propoxy group or a butoxy group. The examples of the halogen atoms include a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, a fluorine atom and an iodine atom. r_1 represents an integer of from 1 to 10.

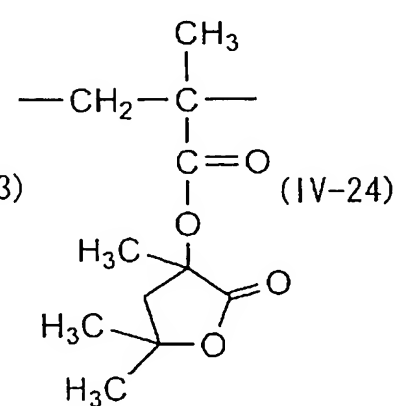
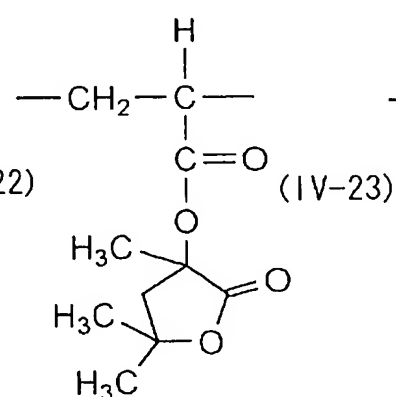
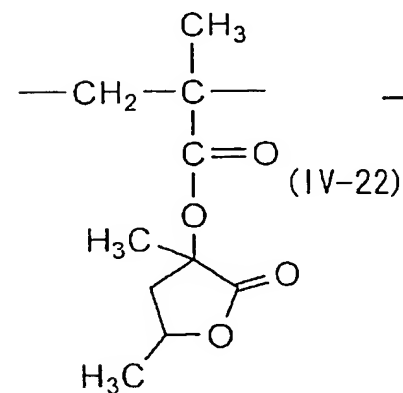
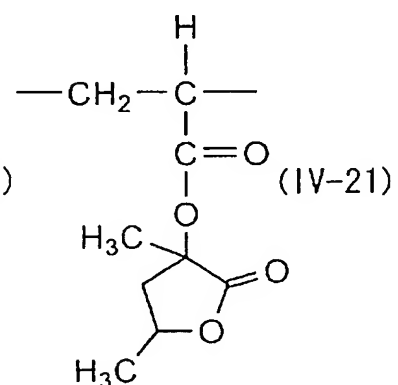
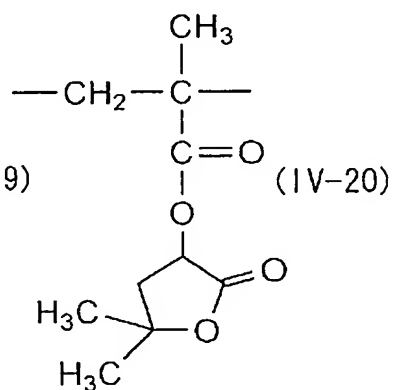
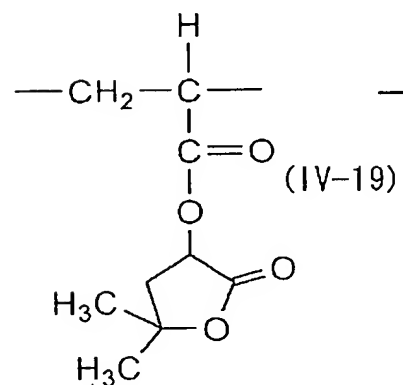
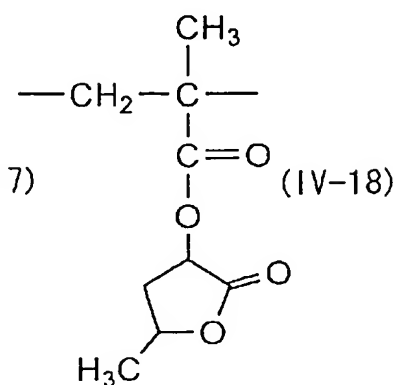
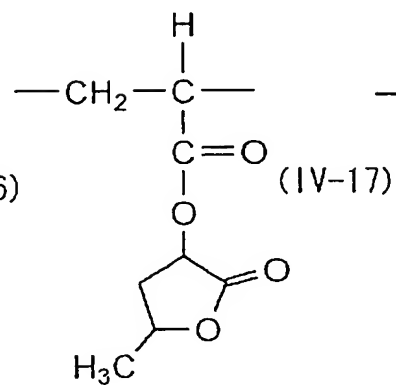
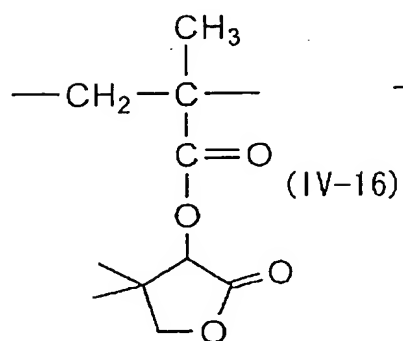
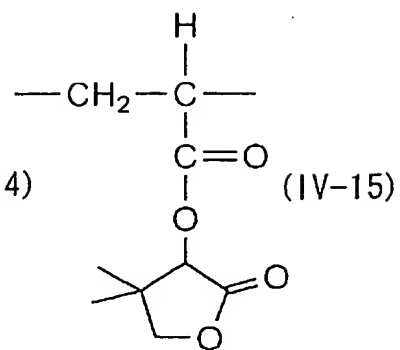
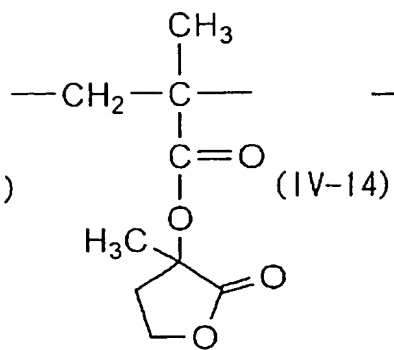
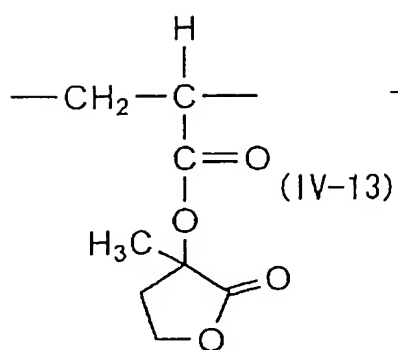
The further substituents of the above alkyl group include a carboxyl group, an acyloxy group, a cyano group, an alkyl group, a substituted alkyl group, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxyl group, a substituted alkoxyl group, an acetamidogroup, an alkoxycarbonyl group and an acyl group.

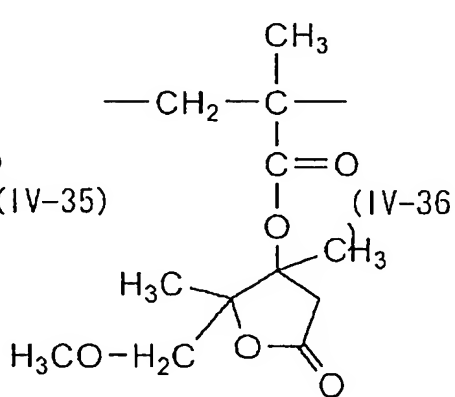
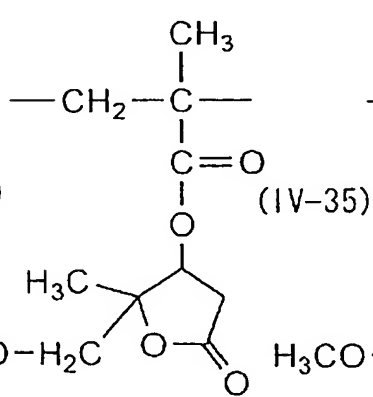
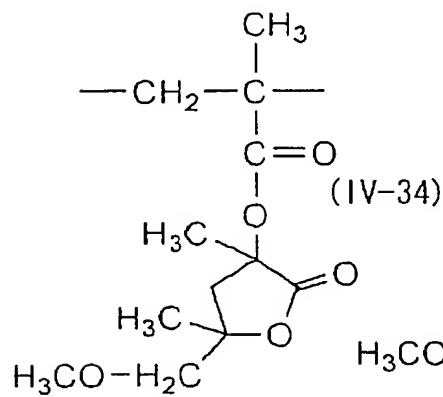
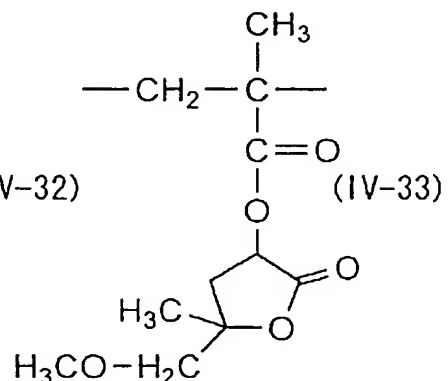
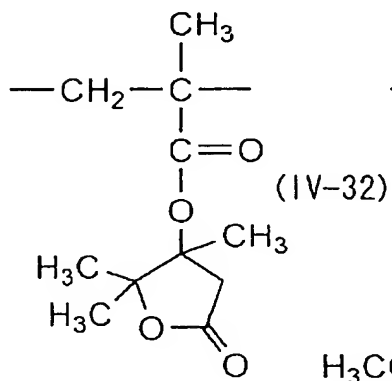
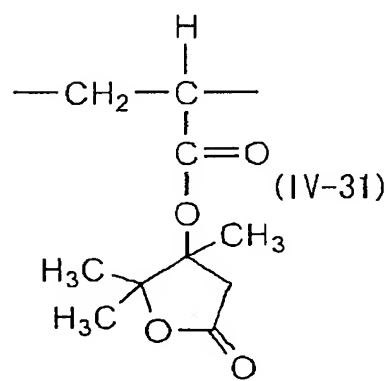
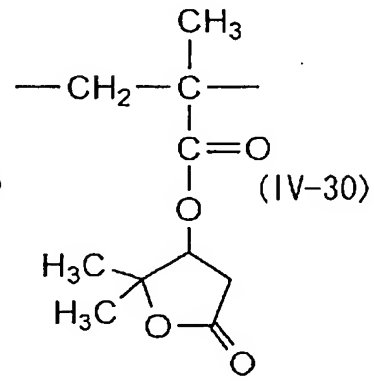
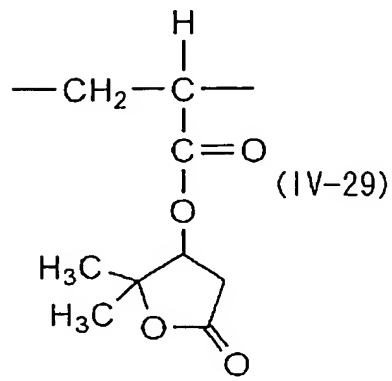
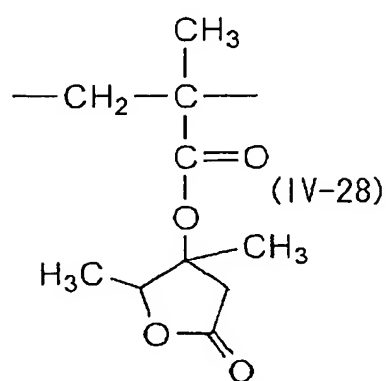
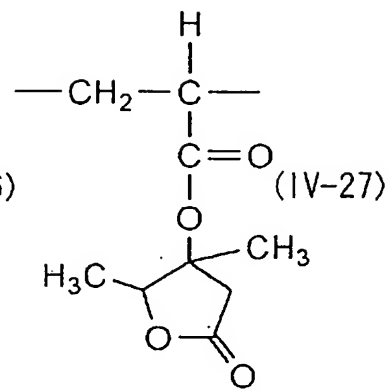
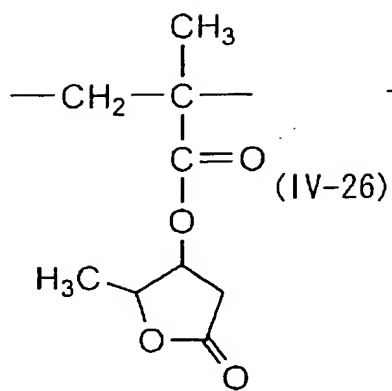
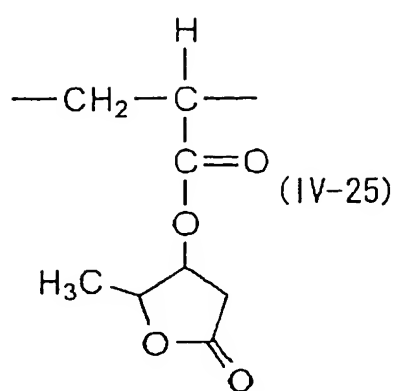
The alkyl group is a lower alkyl group, e.g., a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, an isopropyl group, a butyl group, a cyclopropyl group, cyclobutyl group or a cyclopentyl group. The examples of the substituents for the substituted

alkyl group include a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, and an alkoxyl group. As the example of the substituted alkoxyl group, an alkoxyl group is exemplified. The alkoxyl group is an alkoxyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g., a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, a propoxy group or a butoxy group. As the acyloxy group, an acetoxy group can be exemplified. The examples of the halogen atoms include a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, a fluorine atom and an iodine atom.

The specific examples of the monomers corresponding to the repeating structural unit represented by formula (IV) are shown below, however, these compounds should not be construed as limiting the scope of the present invention.



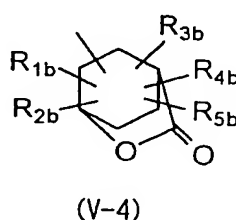
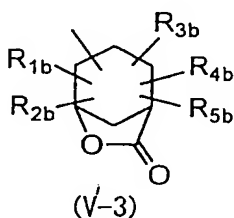
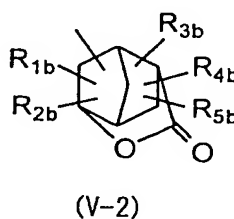
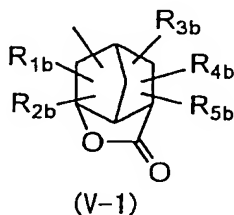




In the above specific examples of formula (IV), (IV-17) to (IV-36) are preferred from the point of capable of strikingly improving exposure margin.

Further, the structure represented by formula (IV) having an acrylate structure is preferred from the point of capable of improving edge roughness.

In addition, a repeating unit having a group represented by any one of the following formula (V-1), (V-2), (V-3) or (V-4) may be contained.



In the formula (V-1), (V-2), (V-3) or (V-4), R_{1b} , R_{2b} , R_{3b} , R_{4b} and R_{5b} each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group which may have a substituent, a cycloalkyl group which may have a substituent, or an alkenyl group which may have a substituent; two of R_{1b} , R_{2b} , R_{3b} , R_{4b} and R_{5b} may be bonded to form a ring.

In formulae (V-1), (V-2), (V-3) and (V-4), R_{1b} , R_{2b} , R_{3b} , R_{4b} and R_{5b} each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group which

may have a substituent, a cycloalkyl group which may have a substituent, or an alkenyl group which may have a substituent, and two of R_{1b} , R_{2b} , R_{3b} , R_{4b} and R_{5b} may be bonded to form a ring.

In formulae (V-1), (V-2), (V-3) and (V-4), the alkyl group represented by R_{1b} , R_{2b} , R_{3b} , R_{4b} and R_{5b} is a straight chain or branched alkyl group, which may have a substituent.

The straight chain or branched alkyl group is preferably a straight chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, more preferably a straight chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, and still more preferably a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-butyl group, an isobutyl group, a sec-butyl group, a t-butyl group, a pentyl group, a hexyl group, a heptyl group, an octyl group, a nonyl group, and a decyl group.

The cycloalkyl group represented by R_{1b} , R_{2b} , R_{3b} , R_{4b} and R_{5b} is preferably a cycloalkyl group having from 3 to 8 carbon atoms, e.g., a cyclopropyl group, a cyclopentyl group, a cyclohexyl group, a cycloheptyl group and a cyclooctyl group.

The alkenyl group represented by R_{1b} , R_{2b} , R_{3b} , R_{4b} and R_{5b} is preferably an alkenyl group having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms, e.g., a vinyl group, a propenyl group, a butenyl group and a hexenyl group.

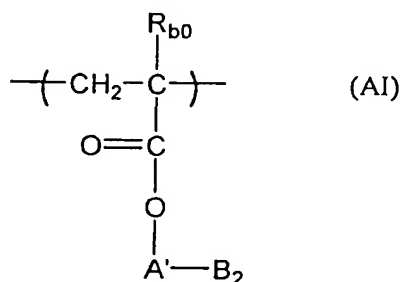
As the rings formed by bonding two of R_{1b} , R_{2b} , R_{3b} , R_{4b} and R_{5b} , 3- to 8-membered rings, e.g., a cyclopropane ring, a cyclobutane ring, a cyclopentane ring, a cyclohexane ring and

a cyclooctane ring can be exemplified.

In formulae (V-1), (V-2), (V-3) and (V-4), R_{1b} , R_{2b} , R_{3b} , R_{4b} and R_{5b} may be bonded to any carbon atoms constituting a cyclic skeleton.

As preferred substituents for the above alkyl, cycloalkyl and alkenyl groups, an alkoxy group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a halogen atom (e.g., fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine), an acyl group having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms, an acyloxy group having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms, a cyano group, a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and a nitro group can be exemplified.

The repeating units having a group represented by the above formula (V-1), (V-2), (V-3) or (V-4) include the repeating units represented by the above formula (II-A) or (II-B) wherein at least one of R_{13}' , R_{14}' , R_{15}' and R_{16}' has a group represented by formula (V-1), (V-2), (V-3) or (V-4) (e.g., R_5 in $-\text{COOR}_5$ represents a group represented by formula (V-1), (V-2), (V-3) or (V-4)), and a repeating unit represented by the following formula (AI).



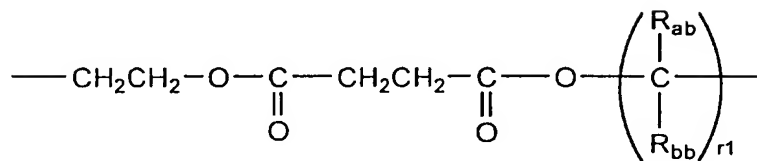
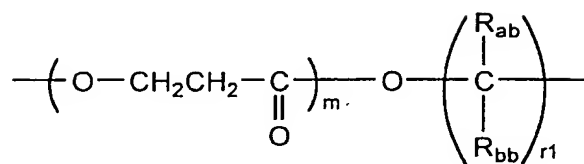
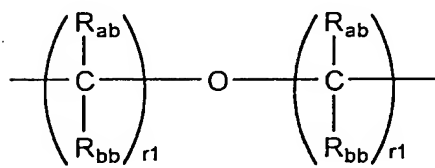
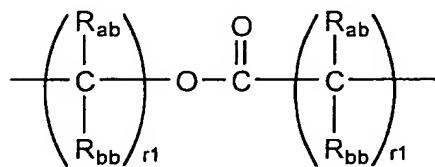
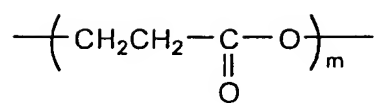
wherein R_{b0} represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, or a

substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms. The preferred substituents of the alkyl group represented by R_{b0} include the same substituents as exemplified above as the preferred substituents of the alkyl group represented by R_{1b} in formula (V-1), (V-2), (V-3) or (V-4).

The halogen atom represented by R_{b0} includes a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom or an iodine atom. R_{b0} preferably represents a hydrogen atom.

A' represents a single bond, an ether group, an ester group, a carbonyl group, an alkylene group or a linking group consisting of these groups in combination.

B_2 represents any group represented by formula (V-1), (V-2), (V-3) or (V-4). The linking group in A' includes, e.g., the following.

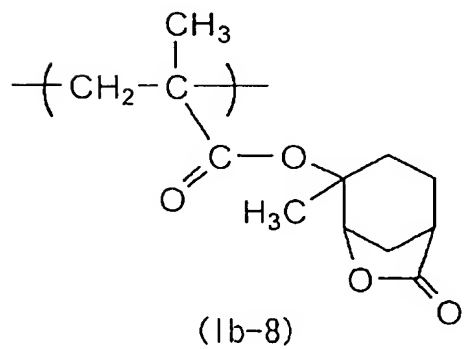
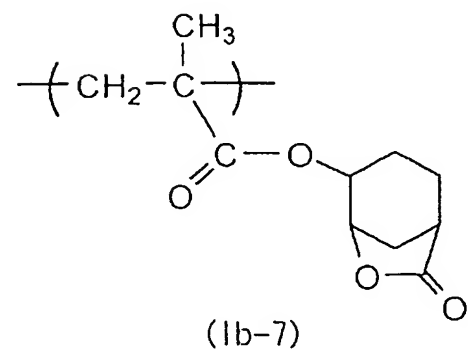
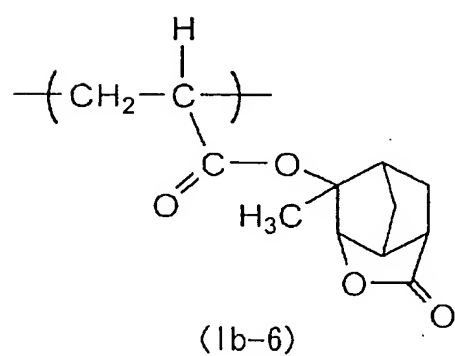
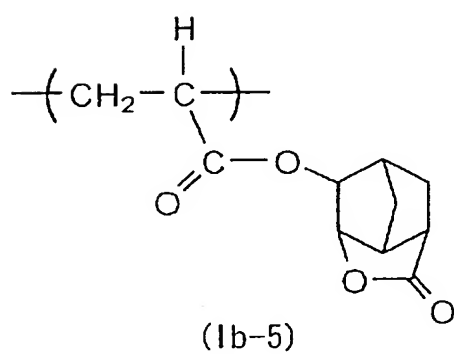
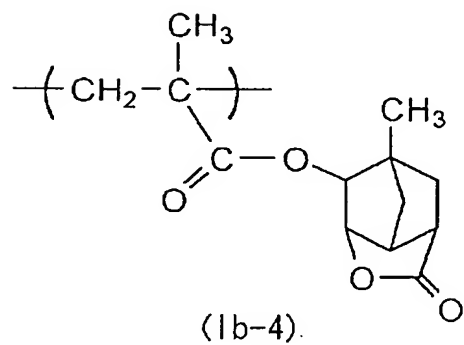
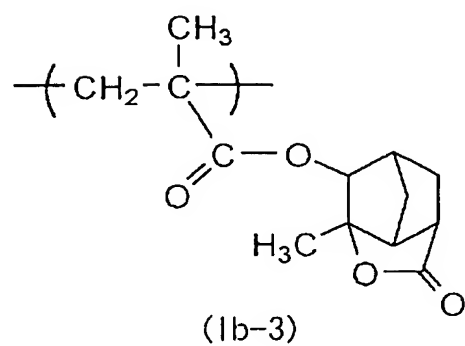
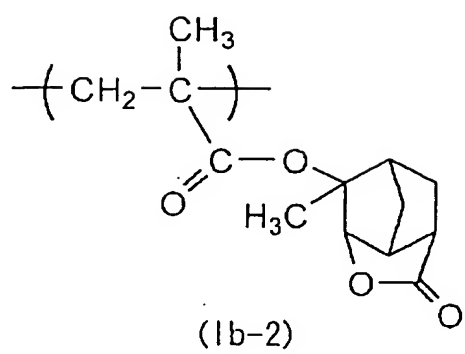
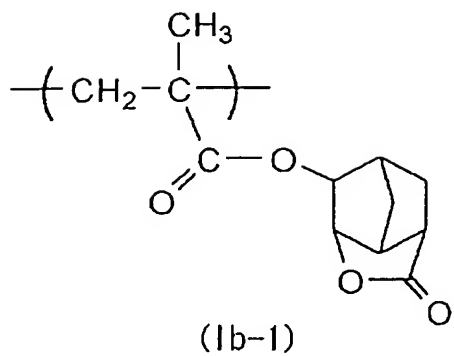


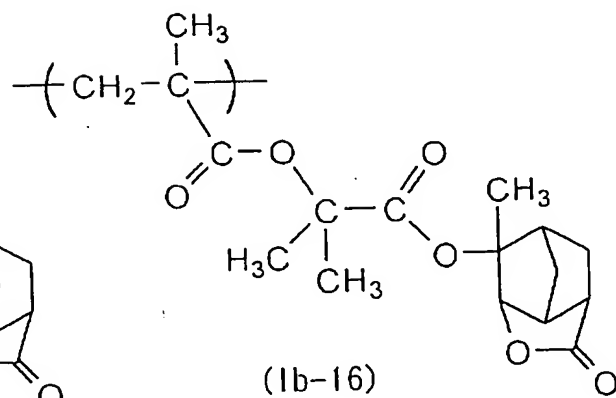
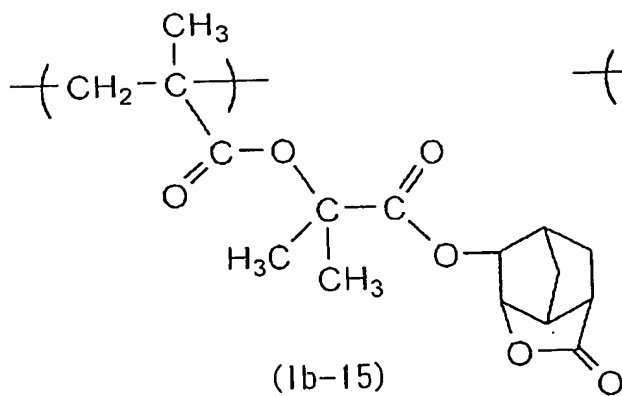
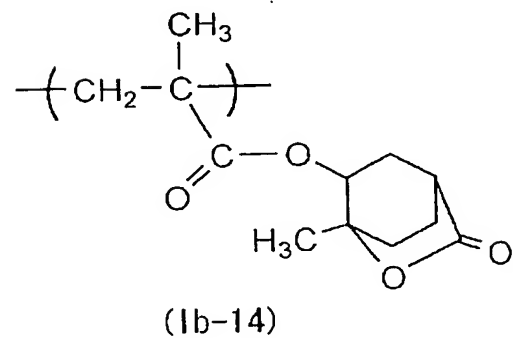
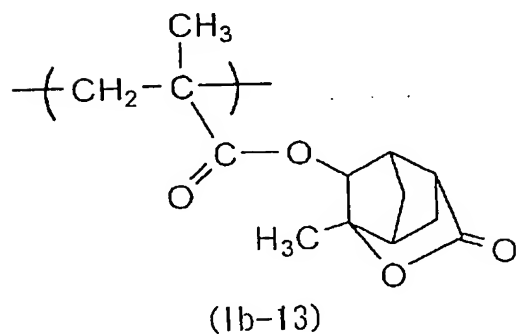
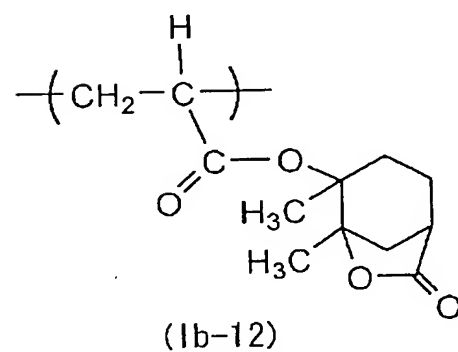
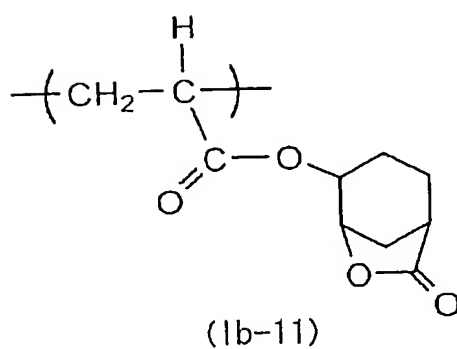
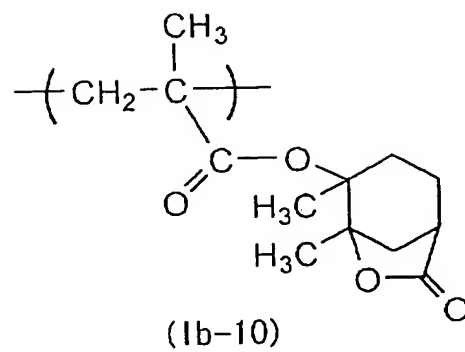
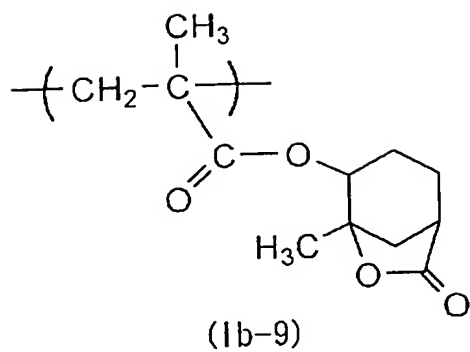
In the above formulae, R_{ab} and R_{bb} , which may be the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a substituted alkyl group, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, or an alkoxyl group.

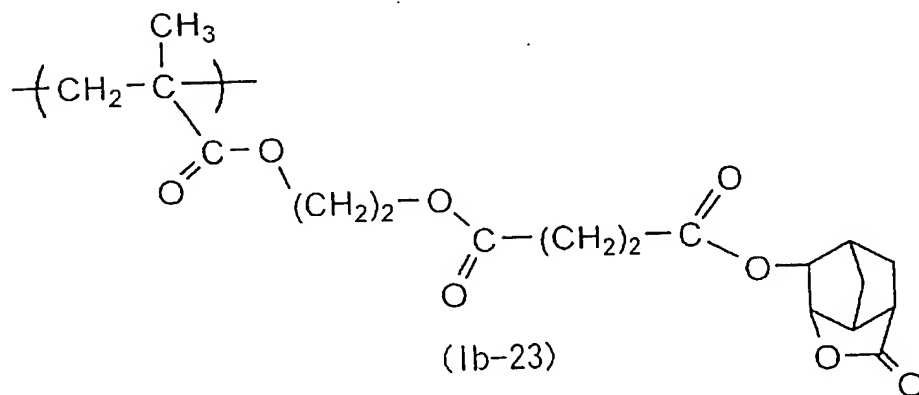
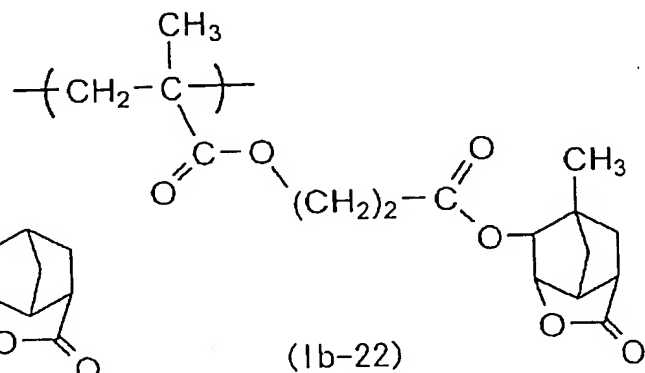
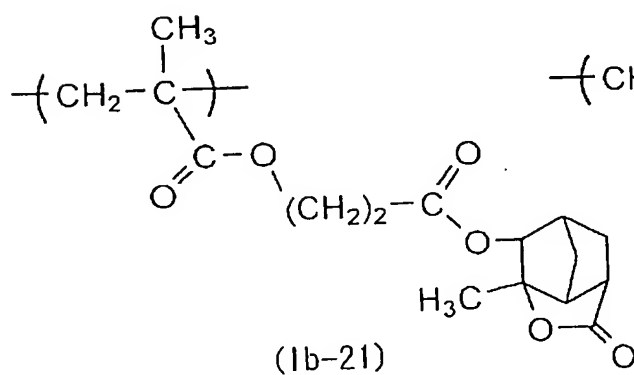
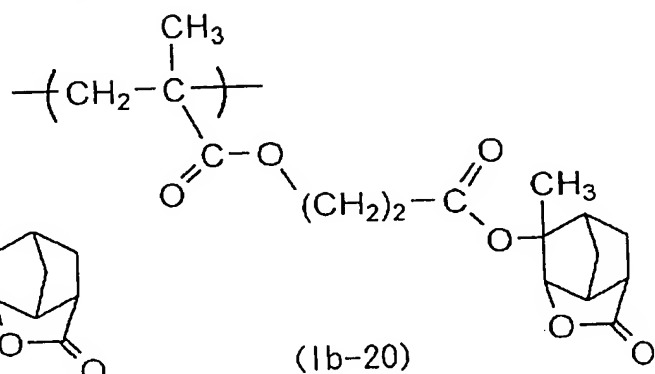
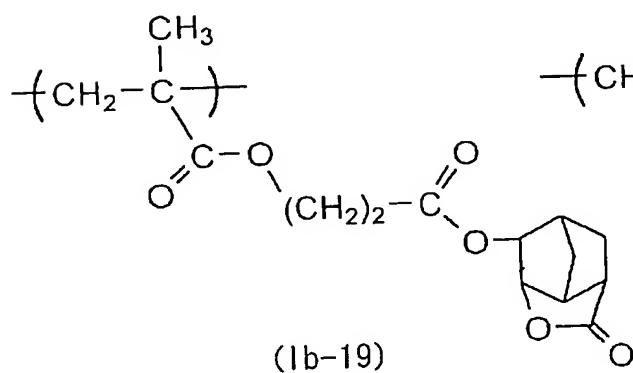
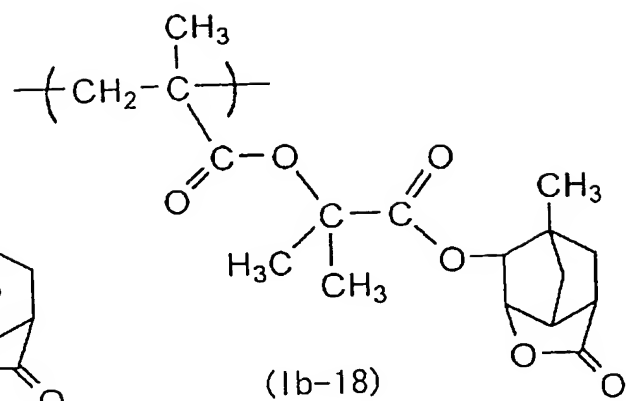
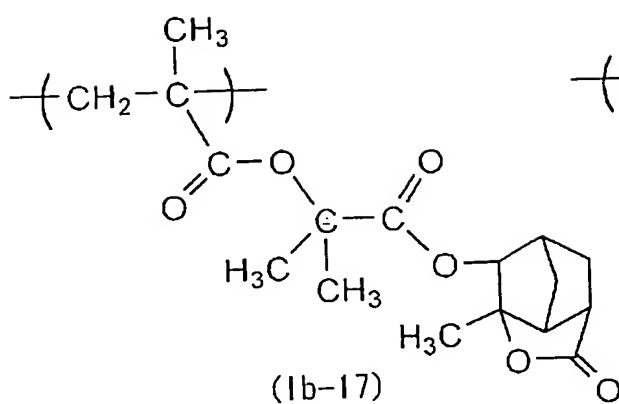
The alkyl group is preferably a lower alkyl group, e.g., a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, an isopropyl group, or a butyl group, more preferably a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, or an isopropyl group. The examples of the substituents for the substituted alkyl group include a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, and an alkoxyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

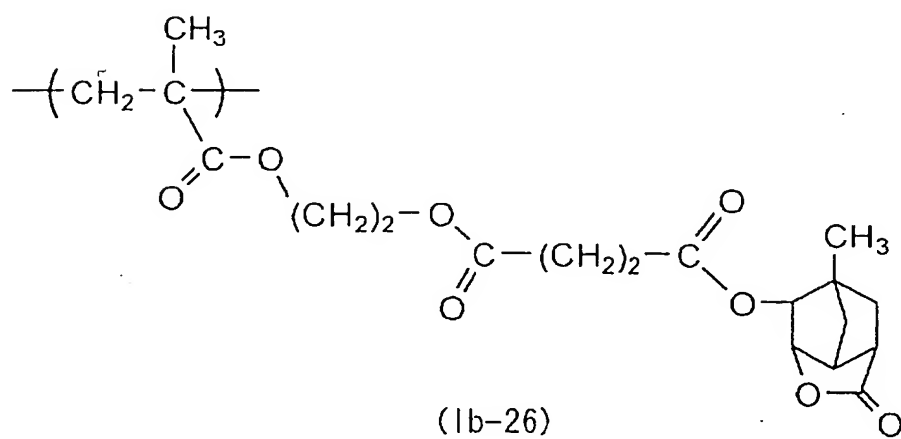
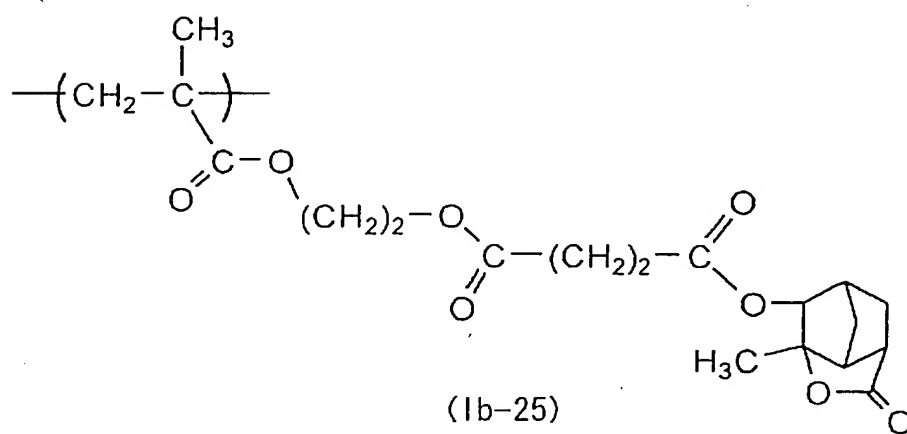
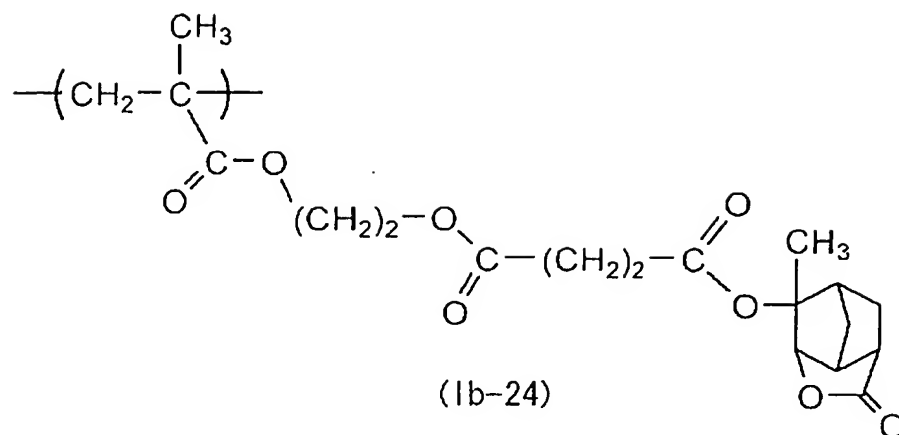
The examples of the alkoxyl groups include an alkoxyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g., a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, a propoxy group, and a butoxy group. The examples of the halogen atoms include a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, a fluorine atom and an iodine atom. r_1 represents an integer of from 1 to 10, preferably an integer of from 1 to 4, and m represents an integer of from 1 to 3, preferably 1 or 2.

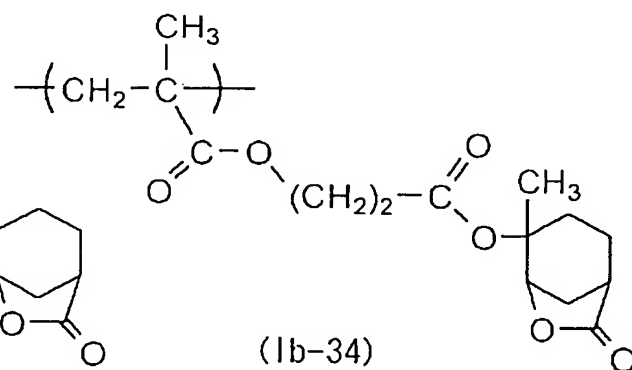
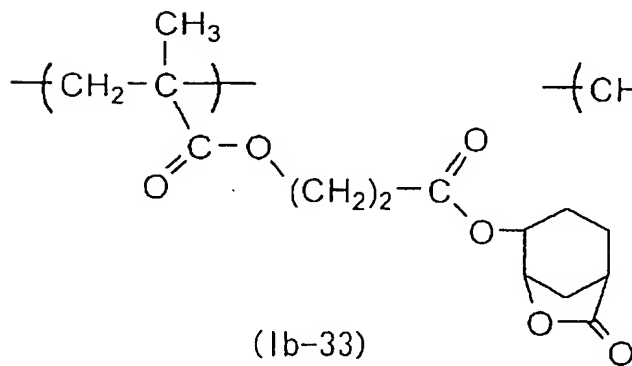
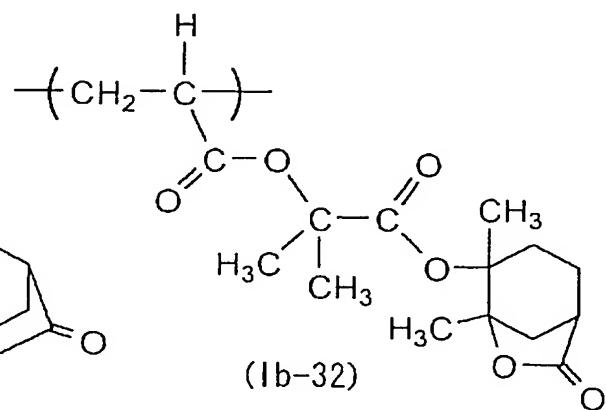
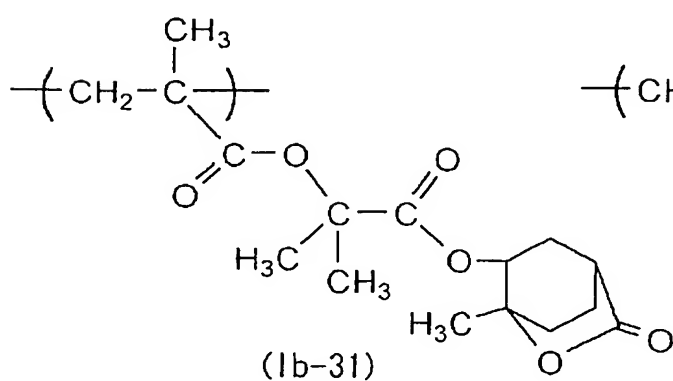
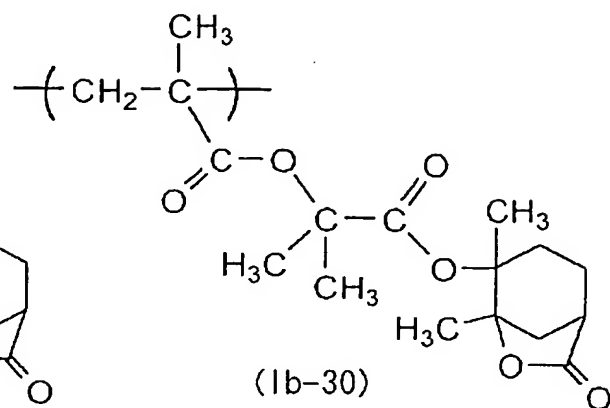
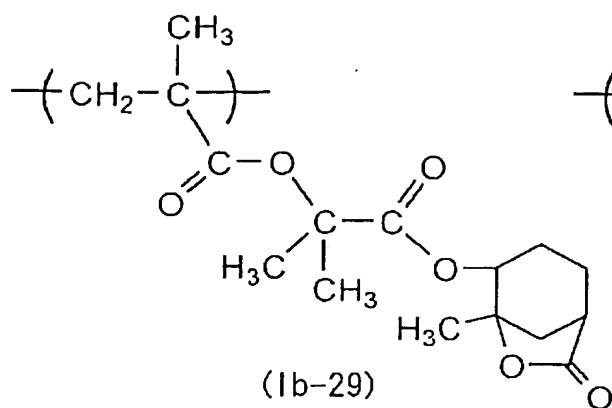
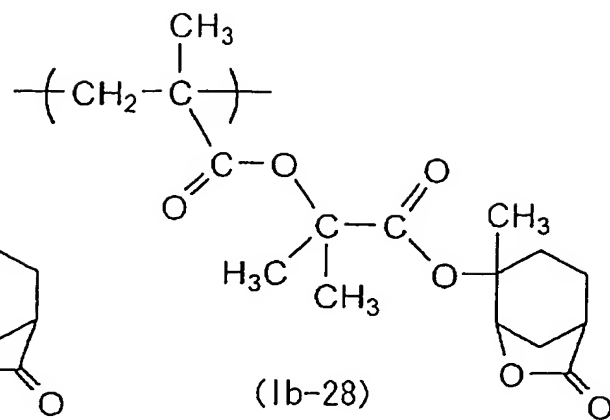
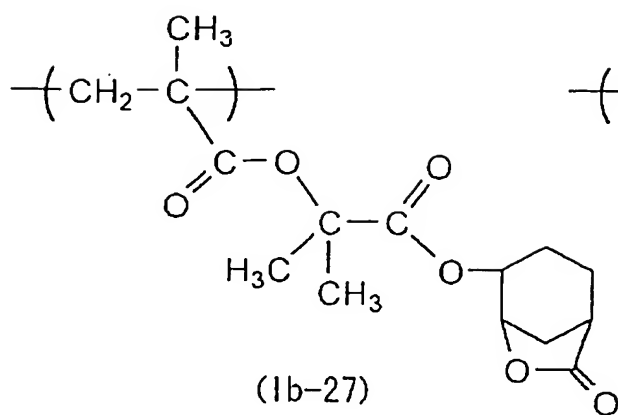
The specific examples of the repeating units represented by formula (AI) are shown below, however, these compounds should not be construed as limiting the scope of the present invention.

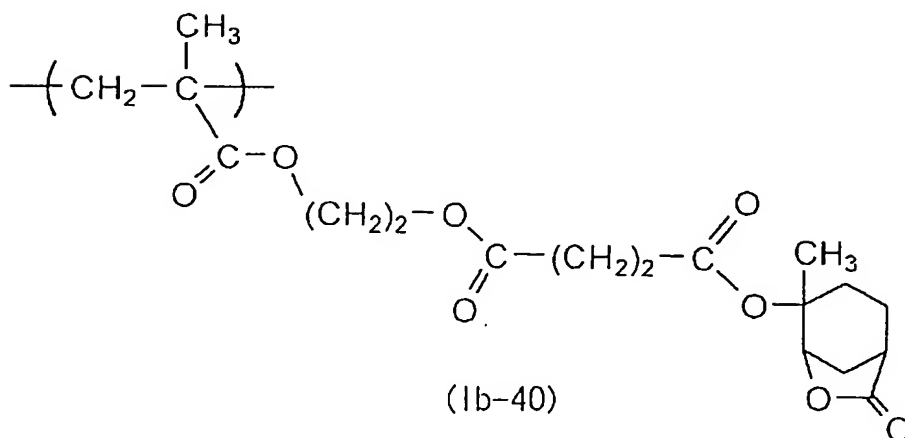
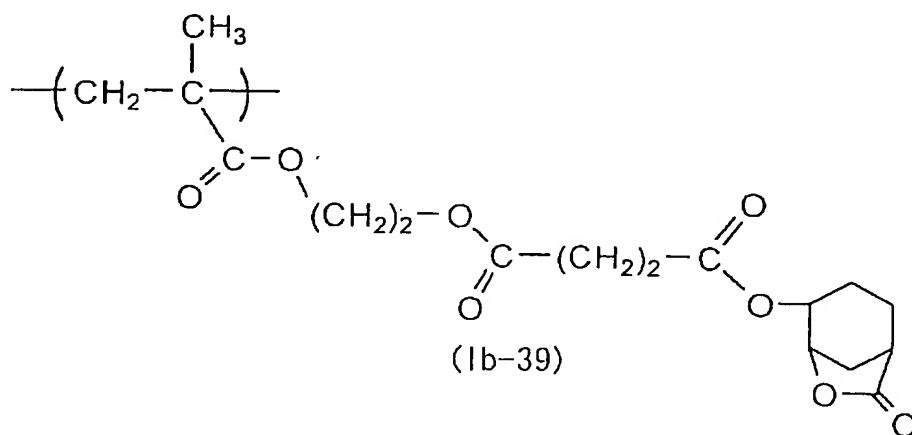
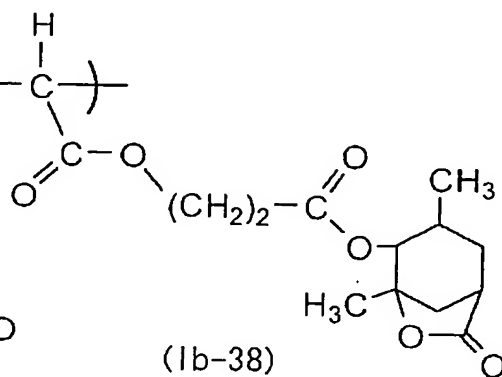
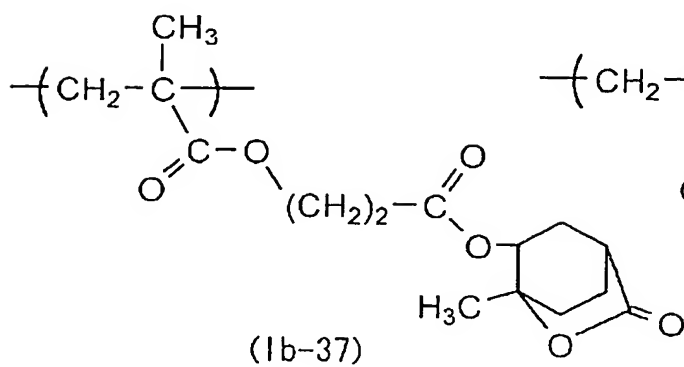
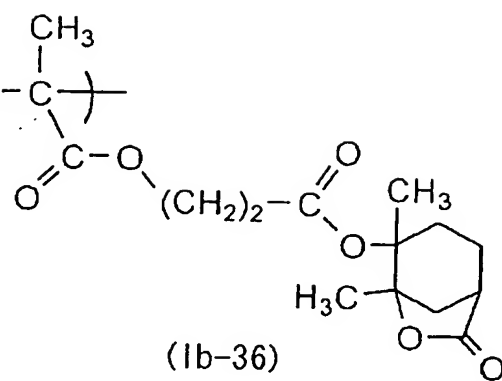
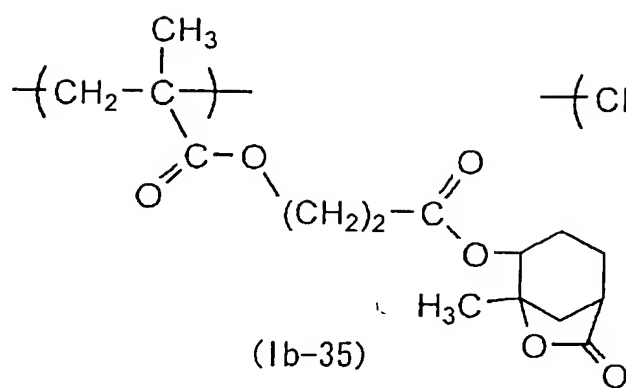


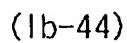
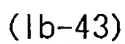
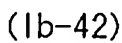
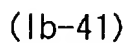




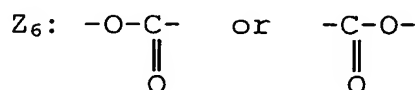
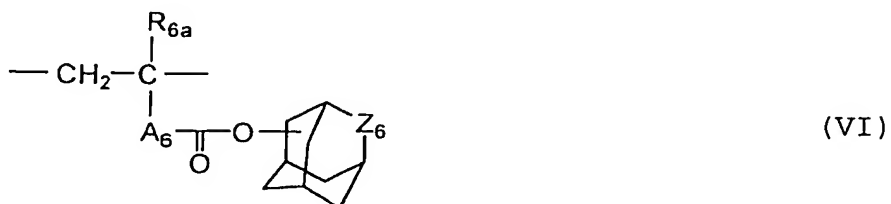








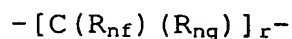
In addition, the acid-decomposable resin according to the present invention can contain a repeating unit represented by the following formula (VI):



wherein A_6 represents one group or a combination of two or more groups selected from the group consisting of a single bond, an alkylene group, a cycloalkylene group, an ether group, a thioether group, a carbonyl group, and an ester group.

R_{6a} represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a cyano group or a halogen atom.

The alkylene group represented by A_6 in formula (VI) is a group represented by the following formula:



wherein R_{nf} and R_{ng} , which may be the same or different, each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a substituted alkyl

group, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group. The alkyl group is preferably a lower alkyl group, e.g., a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, an isopropyl group, or a butyl group, more preferably a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, or an isopropyl group. The examples of the substituents for the substituted alkyl group include a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, and an alkoxy group. The alkoxy group is an alkoxy group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g., a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, a propoxy group or a butoxy group. The examples of the halogen atoms include a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, a fluorine atom and an iodine atom. r represents an integer of from 1 to 10.

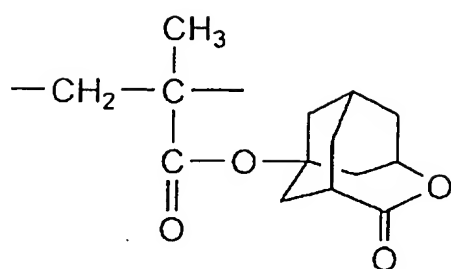
In formula (VI), the cycloalkylene group represented by A_6 is a cycloalkylene group having from 3 to 10 carbon atoms, e.g., a cyclopentylene group, a cyclohexylene group, or a cyclooctylene group.

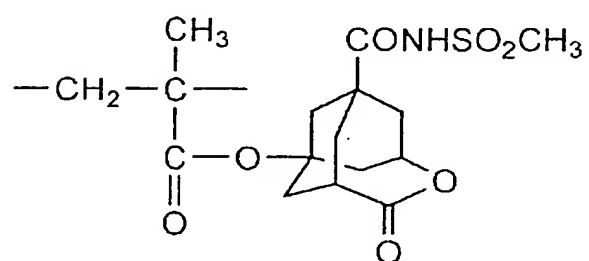
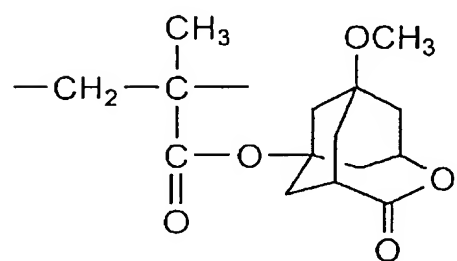
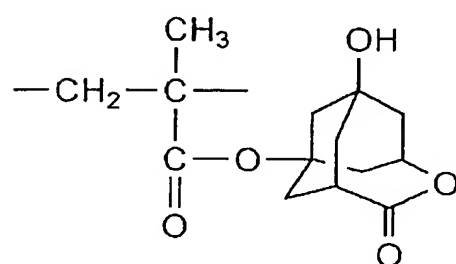
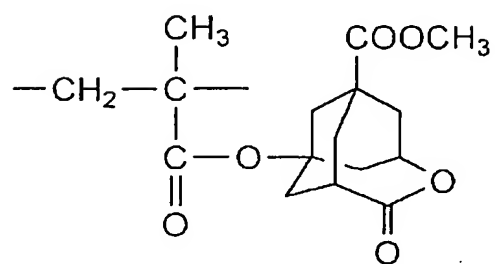
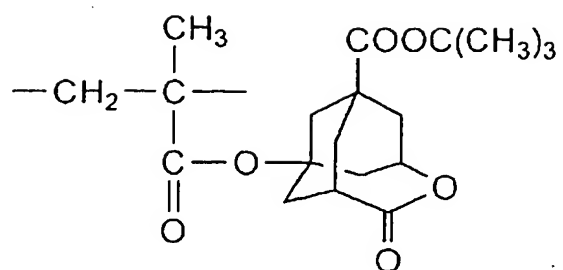
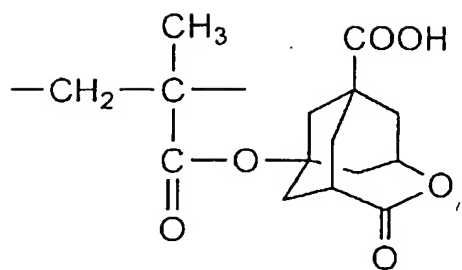
The bridge-containing alicyclic ring containing Z may have a substituent. The examples of the substituents include, e.g., a halogen atom, an alkoxy group (preferably having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms), an alkoxycarbonyl group (preferably having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms), an acyl group (e.g., a formyl group and a benzoyl group), an acyloxy group (e.g., a propylcarbonyloxy group and a benzoyloxy group), an alkyl group (preferably having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms), a carboxyl group, a hydroxyl group, and an alkylsulfonylsulfamoyl group (e.g., $-\text{CONHSO}_2\text{CH}_3$). The alkyl group as the substituent may further be substituted with,

e.g., a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, or an alkoxyl group (preferably having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms).

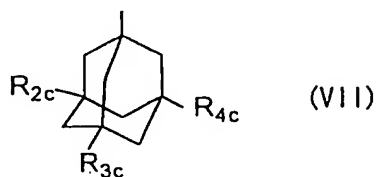
In formula (VI), the oxygen atom of the ester group bonded to A_6 may be bonded anywhere to carbon atoms constituting the bridge-containing alicyclic ring structure containing Z_6 .

The specific examples of the repeating units represented by formula (VI) are shown below, however, these compounds should not be construed as limiting the scope of the present invention.





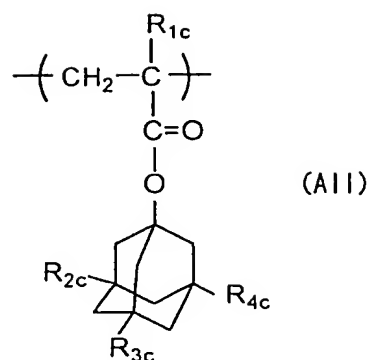
The acid-decomposable resin according to the present invention may further contain a repeating unit having a group represented by the following formula (VII):



wherein R_{2c}, R_{3c} and R_{4c} each represents a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group, provided that at least one of R_{2c}, R_{3c} and R_{4c} represents a hydroxyl group.

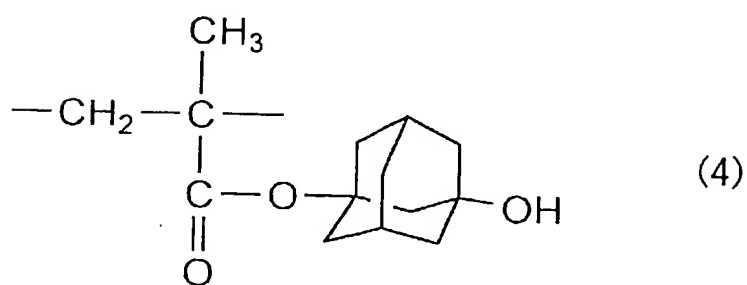
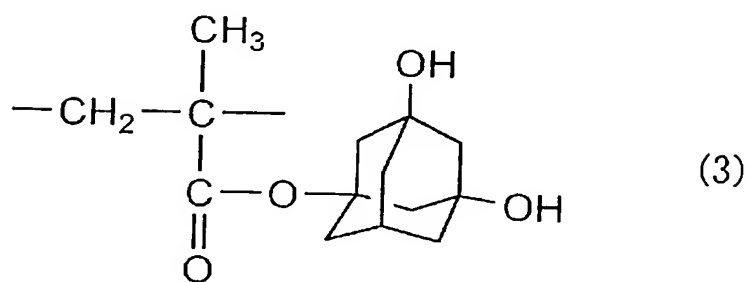
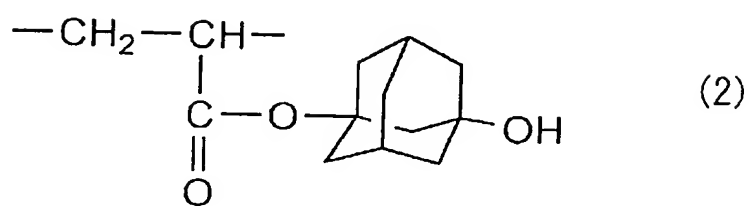
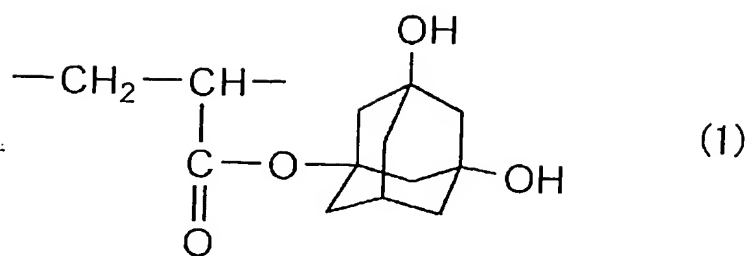
The group represented by formula (VII) is preferably dihydroxy product or monohydroxy product, more preferably dihydroxy product.

As the repeating unit having a group represented by formula (VII), a repeating unit represented by formula (II-A) or (II-B) wherein at least one of R_{13'}, R_{14'}, R_{15'} and R_{16'} has a group represented by formula (VII) (e.g., R₅ in -COOR₅ is a group represented by formula (V-1), (V-2), (V-3) or (V-4)), or a repeating unit represented by the following formula (AII) can be exemplified.

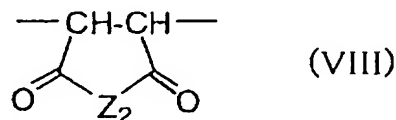


wherein R_{1c} represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R_{2c} , R_{3c} and R_{4c} each represents a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group, provided that at least one of R_{2c} , R_{3c} and R_{4c} represents a hydroxyl group.

The specific examples of the repeating units represented by formula (AII) are shown below, however, these compounds should not be construed as limiting the scope of the present invention.



The acid-decomposable resin according to the present invention may contain a repeating unit having a group represented by the following formula (VIII):



wherein Z_2 represents ---O--- or $\text{---N(R}_{41}\text{)---}$, where R_{41} represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an alkyl group, a haloalkyl group, or $\text{---OSO}_2\text{---R}_{42}\text{---}$, and R_{42} represents an alkyl group, a haloalkyl group, a cycloalkyl group or a camphor residue.

In formula (VIII), Z_2 represents ---O--- or $\text{---N(R}_{41}\text{)---}$, where R_{41} represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an alkyl group, a haloalkyl group, or $\text{---OSO}_2\text{---R}_{42}\text{---}$, and R_{42} represents an alkyl group, a haloalkyl group, a cycloalkyl group or a camphor residue.

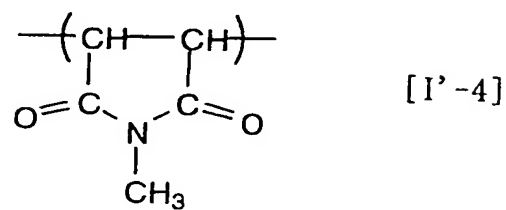
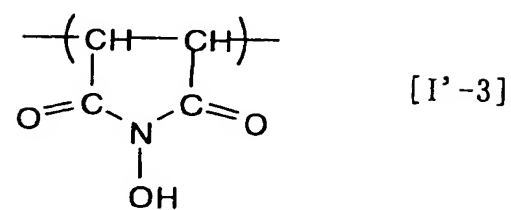
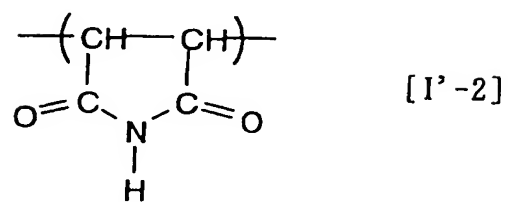
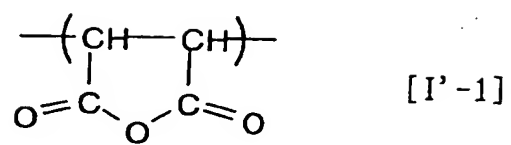
The alkyl group represented by R_{41} and R_{42} is preferably a straight chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, more preferably a straight chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and still more preferably a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-butyl group, an isobutyl group, a sec-butyl group or a t-butyl group.

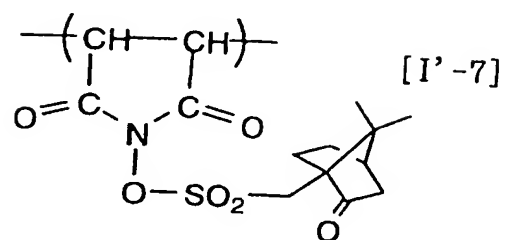
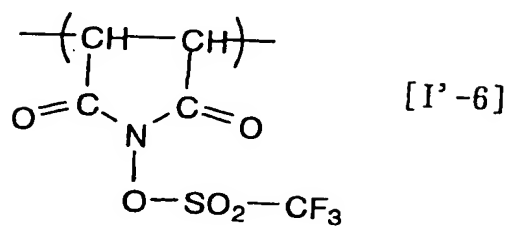
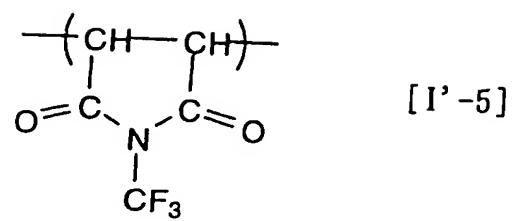
The haloalkyl group represented by R_{41} and R_{42} is a

trifluoromethyl group, a nanofluorobutyl group, a pentadecafluorooctyl group or a trichloromethyl group. The cycloalkyl group represented by R_{42} is a cyclopentyl group, a cyclohexyl group or a cyclooctyl group.

The alkyl group and haloalkyl group represented by R_{41} and R_{42} , and the cycloalkyl group and the camphor residue represented by R_{42} may each have a substituent. The examples of the substituents include, e.g., a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, a cyano group, a halogen atom (e.g., chlorine, bromine, fluorine and iodine), an alkoxyl group (preferably an alkoxyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g., methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy and butoxy), an acyl group (preferably an acyl group having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms, e.g., formyl and acetyl), an acyloxy group (preferably an acyloxy group having from 2 to 5 carbon atoms, e.g., acetoxy), and an aryl group (preferably an aryl group having from 6 to 14 carbon atoms, e.g., phenyl).

The specific examples of the repeating units having a group represented by formula (VIII) include the following compounds [I'-1] to [I'-7], however, these compounds should not be construed as limiting the scope of the present invention.





Acid-decomposable resin components (B) and (B1) can contain various kinds of repeating structural units besides the above-described repeating structural units for the purpose of adjusting dry etching resistance, an aptitude for a standard developing solution, adhesion to a substrate, resist profile, and general characteristics required of the resist, such as resolution, heat resistance and sensitivity.

As such repeating structural units, the repeating structural units corresponding to the monomers shown below can be exemplified but the present invention is not limited thereto.

Due to containing these monomers, it becomes possible to finely adjust the characteristics required of acid-decomposable resin components (B) and (B1), in particular, the following characteristics.

- (1) solubility in a coating solvent,
- (2) film-forming property (glass transition point),
- (3) alkali developability,
- (4) film decrease (hydrophilicity/hydrophobicity, selection of alkali-soluble groups),
- (5) adhesion to the substrate of an unexposed area, and
- (6) dry etching resistance.

As such monomers, compounds having one addition polymerizable unsaturated bond selected from, e.g., acrylic esters, methacrylic esters, acrylamides, methacrylamides, allyl compounds, vinyl ethers and vinyl esters can be exemplified.

Specifically, the following monomers can be exemplified.

Acrylic esters (preferably an alkyl acrylate, wherein the alkyl group has from 1 to 10 the carbon atoms):

methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, amyl acrylate, cyclohexyl acrylate, ethylhexyl acrylate, octyl acrylate, t-octyl acrylate, chloroethyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, 2,2-dimethylhydroxypropyl acrylate, 5-hydroxypentyl acrylate, trimethylolpropane monoacrylate, pentaerythritol monoacrylate, benzyl acrylate, methoxybenzyl acrylate, furfuryl acrylate, and tetrahydrofurfuryl acrylate.

Methacrylic esters (preferably an alkyl methacrylate, wherein the alkyl group has from 1 to 10 the carbon atoms):

methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, propyl methacrylate, isopropyl methacrylate, amyl methacrylate, hexyl methacrylate, cyclohexyl methacrylate, benzyl methacrylate, chlorobenzyl methacrylate, octyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 4-hydroxybutyl methacrylate, 5-hydroxypentyl methacrylate, 2,2-dimethyl-3-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, trimethylolpropane monomethacrylate, pentaerythritol monomethacrylate, furfuryl methacrylate, and tetrahydrofurfuryl methacrylate.

Acrylamides:

acrylamide, N-alkylacrylamide (as the alkyl group, an alkyl group having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, e.g., methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, t-butyl, heptyl, octyl, cyclohexyl, and hydroxyethyl), N,N-dialkylacrylamide (as the alkyl group, an alkyl group having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, e.g., methyl, ethyl,

butyl, isobutyl, ethylhexyl, and cyclohexyl),
N-hydroxyethyl-N-methylacrylamide, and
N-2-acetamidoethyl-N-acetylacrylamide.

Methacrylamides:

methacrylamide, N-alkylmethacrylamide (as the alkyl group, an alkyl group having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, e.g., methyl, ethyl, t-butyl, ethylhexyl, hydroxyethyl, and cyclohexyl), N,N-dialkylmethacrylamide (as the alkyl group, e.g., ethyl, propyl and butyl), and N-hydroxyethyl-N-methylmethacrylamide.

Allyl compounds:

allyl esters (e.g., allyl acetate, allyl caproate, allyl caprylate, allyl laurate, allyl palmitate, allyl stearate, allyl benzoate, allyl acetoacetate and allyl lactate), and allyloxyethanol.

Vinyl ethers:

alkyl vinyl ether (e.g., hexyl vinyl ether, octyl vinyl ether, decyl vinyl ether, ethylhexyl vinyl ether, methoxyethyl vinyl ether, ethoxyethyl vinyl ether, chloroethyl vinyl ether, 1-methyl-2,2-dimethylpropyl vinyl ether, 2-ethylbutyl vinyl ether, hydroxyethyl vinyl ether, diethylene glycol vinyl ether, dimethylaminoethyl vinyl ether, diethylaminoethyl vinyl ether, butylaminoethyl vinyl ether, benzyl vinyl ether, and tetrahydrofurfuryl vinyl ether).

Vinyl esters:

vinyl butyrate, vinyl isobutyrate, vinyl trimethyl acetate, vinyl diethyl acetate, vinyl valerate, vinyl caproate,

vinyl chloroacetate, vinyl dichloroacetate, vinyl methoxy acetate, vinyl butoxy acetate, vinyl acetoacetate, vinyl lactate, vinyl- β -phenylbutyrate, and vinyl cyclohexylcarboxylate.

Dialkyl itaconates:

dimethyl itaconate, diethyl itaconate, and dibutyl itaconate.

Dialkyl esters or monoalkyl esters of fumaric acid:

dibutyl fumarate.

Others:

crotonic acid, itaconic acid, maleic anhydride, maleimide, acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, and maleylonitrile.

Besides the above compounds, addition polymerizable unsaturated compounds copolymerizable with the monomers corresponding to the above various repeating structural units can be used.

In acid-decomposable resins, the molar ratio of the content of each repeating structural unit can be arbitrarily set for adjusting the dry etching resistance of a resist, an aptitude for a standard developing solution, adhesion to a substrate, resist profile, and general characteristics required of the resist, such as resolution, heat resistance and sensitivity.

As the preferred embodiments of acid-decomposable resin component of the present invention, the following can be exemplified.

(1) Component containing a repeating unit having a partial structure containing an alicyclic hydrocarbon represented by

formula (pI), (pII), (pIII), (pIV), (pV) or (pVI) (a side chain type).

(2) Component containing a repeating unit represented by formula (II-AB) (a main chain type). In item (2), the following is further exemplified.

(3) Component containing a repeating unit represented by formula (II-AB), a maleic anhydride derivative and a (meth)acrylate structure (a hybrid type).

The content of the repeating unit having a partial structure containing an alicyclic hydrocarbon represented by formula (pI), (pII), (pIII), (pIV), (pV) or (pVI) in acid-decomposable resin (B) is preferably from 30 to 70 mol% in the entire repeating structural units, more preferably from 35 to 65 mol%, and still more preferably from 40 to 60 mol%.

The content of the repeating unit represented by formula (II-AB) in acid-decomposable resin (B) is preferably from 10 to 60 mol% in the entire repeating structural units, more preferably from 15 to 55 mol%, and still more preferably from 20 to 50 mol%.

The content of the repeating structural units comprising other copolymerizable component monomers in acid-decomposable resin (B) can also be arbitrarily set according to the characteristics of a desired resist, but the content is generally preferably 99 mol% or less of the total mol number of the repeating unit having a partial structure containing an alicyclic hydrocarbon represented by formula (pI), (pII), (pIII), (pIV), (pV) or (pVI) and the repeating unit represented by formula (II-AB), more

preferably 90 mol% or less, and still more preferably 80 mol% or less.

When the composition of the present invention is used for ArF exposure, it is preferred that the resin should not contain an aromatic group in view of the transparency to ArF light.

Acid-decomposable resin for use in the present invention can be synthesized according to ordinary methods (e.g., radical polymerization). In general synthesis methods, monomer seeds are fed to a reaction vessel in one lot or in the course of reaction, uniformly dissolved in a reaction solvent, according to necessity, e.g., ethers such as tetrahydrofuran, 1,4-dioxane or diisopropyl ether, ketones such as methyl ethyl ketone or methyl isobutyl ketone, an ester solvent such as ethyl acetate, further in the later described solvent for dissolving the composition of the present invention, e.g., propylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, heated under inert gas atmosphere of nitrogen or argon, according to necessity, and polymerization is initiated using a commercially available radical polymerization initiator (e.g., an azo-based initiator or peroxide). If necessary, the initiator is additionally added or added in parts, the polymer is put into a solvent after termination of the reaction, and the desired polymer is recovered by methods of, e.g., powder recovery or solid recovery. The reaction concentration is 20 wt% or more, preferably 30 wt% or more, and more preferably 40 wt% or more. The reaction temperature is from 10 to 150°C, preferably from 30 to 120°C, and more preferably from 50 to 100°C.

The weight average molecular weight of the resin according to the present invention is preferably from 1,000 to 200,000 measured by a GPC method and calculated in terms of polystyrene.

When the weight average molecular weight is less than 1,000, heat resistance and dry etching resistance are disadvantageously deteriorated, while when it exceeds 200,000, developability is deteriorated and viscosity becomes extremely high, which results in lowering of film-forming property.

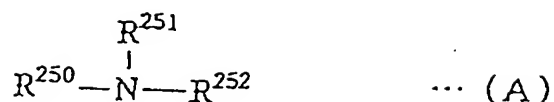
In the positive photosensitive composition according to the present invention, the proportion of all the acid-decomposable resins in the entire composition is preferably from 40 to 99.99 wt% based on the entire solid content of the resist, more preferably from 50 to 99.97 wt%.

(C) Basic compound

The positive photosensitive composition in the first embodiment of the present invention contains (C) a basic compound.

It is preferred for the positive photosensitive composition in the second embodiment of the present invention to contain (C) a basic compound for reducing the fluctuation of performances due to aging during the time from exposure to heating.

As the preferred basic compound, the compound having the structure represented by formula (A), (B), (C), (D) or (E) can be exemplified:



wherein R^{250} , R^{251} and R^{252} each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkylamino group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group having from 6 to 20 carbon atoms, and R^{251} and R^{252} may be bonded to each other to form a ring.



wherein R^{253} , R^{254} , R^{255} and R^{256} each represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

The preferred specific examples of the basic compounds include substituted or unsubstituted guanidine, substituted or unsubstituted aminopyridine, substituted or unsubstituted aminoalkylpyridine, substituted or unsubstituted aminopyrrolidine, substituted or unsubstituted indazole, substituted or unsubstituted pyrazole, substituted or

unsubstituted pyrazine, substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidine, substituted or unsubstituted purine, substituted or unsubstituted imidazoline, substituted or unsubstituted pyrazoline, substituted or unsubstituted piperazine, substituted or unsubstituted aminomorpholine, substituted or unsubstituted aminoalkylmorpholine, mono-, di- or trialkylamine, a substituted or unsubstituted aniline, substituted or unsubstituted piperidine, and mono- or diethanolamine. The preferred substituents include an amino group, an aminoalkyl group, an alkylamino group, an aminoaryl group, an arylamino group, an alkyl group, an alkoxyl group, an acyl group, an acyloxy group, an aryl group, an aryloxy group, a nitro group, a hydroxyl group and a cyano group.

The specific examples of the preferred basic compounds include guanidine, 1,1-dimethylguanidine, 1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine, 2-aminopyridine, 3-aminopyridine, 4-aminopyridine, 2-dimethylaminopyridine, 4-dimethylaminopyridine, 2-diethylaminopyridine, 2-(aminomethyl)pyridine, 2-amino-3-methylpyridine, 2-amino-4-methylpyridine, 2-amino-5-methylpyridine, 2-amino-6-methylpyridine, 3-aminoethylpyridine, 4-aminoethylpyridine, 3-aminopyrrolidine, piperazine, N-(2-aminoethyl)piperazine, N-(2-aminoethyl)piperidine, 4-amino-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine, 4-piperidinopiperidine, 2-iminopiperidine, 1-(2-aminoethyl)pyrrolidine, pyrazole, 3-amino-5-methylpyrazole, 5-amino-3-methyl-1-p-tolylpyrazole, pyrazine, 2-(aminomethyl)-5-methylpyrazine, pyrimidine,

2,4-diamonopyrimidine, 4,6-dihydroxypyrimidine, 2-pyrazoline, 3-pyrazoline, N-aminomorpholine, N-(2-aminoethyl)morpholine, 1,5-diazabicyclo[4.3.0]nona-5-ene, 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undeca-7-ene, 2,4,5-triphenylimidazole, tri(n-butyl)amine, tri(n-octyl)amine, N-phenyldiethanolamine, N-hydroxyethylpiperidine, 2,6-diisopropylaniline, and N-cyclohexyl-N'-morpholinoethylthiourea, but the present invention is not limited thereto.

The further preferred compounds include substituted or unsubstituted guanidine, substituted or unsubstituted aminopyrrolidine, substituted or unsubstituted pyrazole, substituted or unsubstituted pyrazoline, substituted or unsubstituted piperazine, substituted or unsubstituted aminomorpholine, substituted or unsubstituted aminoalkyl-morpholine, substituted or unsubstituted piperidine, and further, compounds having an imidazole structure, a diazabicyclo structure, an onium hydroxide structure, an onium carboxylate structure, and an aniline structure.

As the compound having an imidazole structure, 2,4,5-triphenylimidazole and benzimidazole can be exemplified.

As the compound having a diazabicyclo structure, 1,4-biazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane, 1,5-diazabicyclo[4.3.0]nona-5-ene, and 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undeca-7-ene can be exemplified. As the compound having an onium hydroxide structure, triarylsulfonium hydroxide, phenacylsulfonium hydroxide, sulfonium hydroxide

having a 2-oxoalkyl group, specifically, triphenylsulfonium hydroxide, tris(t-butylphenyl)sulfonium hydroxide, bis(t-butylphenyl)iodonium hydroxide, phenacylthiophenium hydroxide, and 2-oxopropylthiophenium hydroxide can be exemplified. As the compound having an onium carboxylate structure, the compound having an onium hydroxide structure wherein the anion moiety is replaced with carboxylate, e.g., acetate, adamantane-1-carboxylate, and perfluoroalkyl carboxylate can be exemplified. As the compound having an aniline structure, 2,6-diisopropylaniline and N,N-dimethylaniline can be exemplified. However, these compounds should not be construed as limiting the scope of the present invention.

These basic compounds (C) can be used alone or in combination of two or more. The addition amount of the basic compound (C) is generally from 0.001 to 10 wt%, preferably from 0.01 to 5 wt%, based on the solid content of the photosensitive resin composition. If the content is less than 0.001 wt%, the effect of the addition of the compound cannot be obtained. On the other hand, if it exceeds 10 wt%, the sensitivity lowers and the developing property of the non-exposed area are liable to be deteriorated.

(D) Surfactant containing at least one of a fluorine atom and a silicon atom

The positive photosensitive composition in the first embodiment of the present invention contains either any one, or two or more, of fluorine- and/or silicon-containing surfactant

(a fluorine-containing surfactant and a silicon-containing surfactant, a surfactant containing both a fluorine atom and a silicon atom). It is preferred for the positive photosensitive composition in the second embodiment of the present invention to contain component (D).

When the positive photosensitive composition of the present invention contains surfactant component (D), a resist pattern excellent in sensitivity, resolution, adhering property, and free of development defect can be obtained with the exposure light sources of 250 nm or less, in particular 220 nm or less.

Surfactants disclosed in JP-A-62-36663, JP-A-61-226746, JP-A-61-226745, JP-A-62-170950, JP-A-63-34540, JP-A-7-230165, JP-A-8-62834, JP-A-9-54432, JP-A-9-5988, U.S. Patents 5,405,720, 5,360,692, 5,529,881, 5,296,330, 5,436,098, 5,576,143, 5,294,511, and 5,824,451 can be used as surfactant component (D). The following commercially available surfactants can also be used as they are.

As the commercially available surfactants which can be used in the present invention, fluorine-based surfactants and silicon-based surfactants, e.g., Eftop EF301 and EF303 (manufactured by Shin-Akita Chemical Co., Ltd.), Florad FC430 and FC431 (manufactured by Sumitomo 3M Co., Limited), Megafac F171, F173, F176, F189 and R08 (manufactured by Dainippon Chemicals and Ink, Co., Ltd.), Sarfron S-382, SC101, SC102, SC103, SC104, SC105 and SC106 (manufactured by Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.), and Troy Sol S-366 (manufactured by Troy Chemical Inc.) can be

exemplified. Polysiloxane polymer KP-341 (manufactured by Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd.) can also be used as the silicon-based surfactant.

The proportion of surfactants (D) is preferably from 0.0001 to 2 wt% based on the entire positive photosensitive composition (exclusive of solvents), more preferably from 0.001 to 1 wt%.

(E) Organic solvent

The photosensitive composition according to the present invention is generally dissolved in a prescribed organic solvent.

The examples of the solvents usable in the present invention include ethylene dichloride, cyclohexanone, cyclopentanone, 2-heptanone, γ -butyrolactone, methyl ethyl ketone, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether, 2-methoxyethyl acetate, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether acetate, propylene glycol monomethyl ether, propylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, toluene, ethyl acetate, methyl lactate, ethyl lactate, methyl methoxy propionate, ethyl ethoxy propionate, methyl pyruvate, ethyl pyruvate, propyl pyruvate, N,N-dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, N-methylpyrrolidone, and tetrahydrofuran.

In the present invention, it is preferred to use a mixed solvent comprising a solvent containing a hydroxyl group in the structure and a solvent not containing a hydroxyl group, by which the generation of particles during storage of the resist solution can be reduced.

The examples of the solvents containing a hydroxyl group include ethylene glycol, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether, propylene glycol, propylene glycol monomethyl ether, propylene glycol monoethyl ether, and ethyl lactate, of these solvents, propylene glycol monomethyl ether and ethyl lactate are particularly preferred.

The examples of the solvents not containing a hydroxyl group include propylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, ethyl ethoxypropionate, 2-heptanone, γ -butyrolactone, cyclohexanone, butyl acetate, N-methylpyrrolidone, N,N-dimethylacetamide, and dimethyl sulfoxide, of these solvents, propylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, ethyl ethoxy propionate, 2-heptanone, γ -butyrolactone, cyclohexanone and butyl acetate are particularly preferred, and propylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, ethyl ethoxy propionate and 2-heptanone are most preferred.

The mixing ratio of the solvent containing a hydroxyl group and the solvent not containing a hydroxyl group (by weight) is generally from 1/99 to 99/1, preferably from 10/90 to 90/10, and more preferably from 20/80 to 60/40. A mixed solvent comprising 50 wt% or more of the solvent not containing a hydroxyl group is particularly preferred in the light of the coating uniformity.

(F) Acid-decomposable dissolution-inhibiting compound

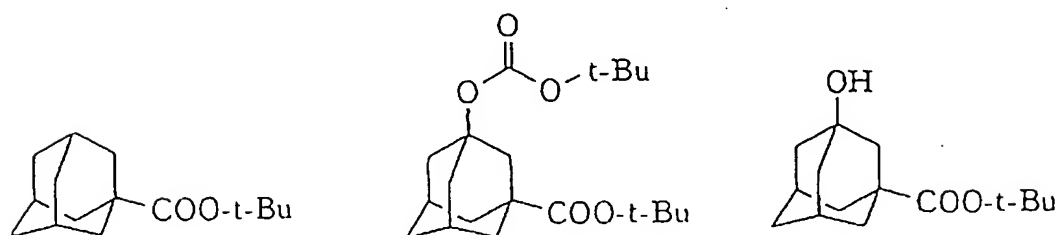
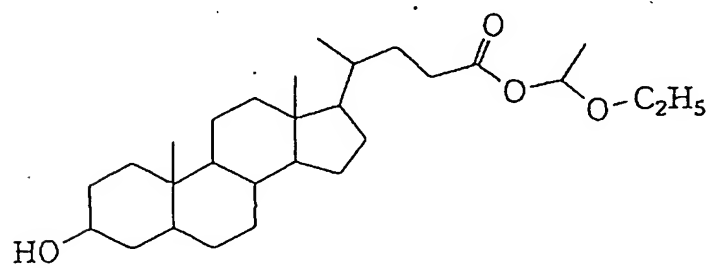
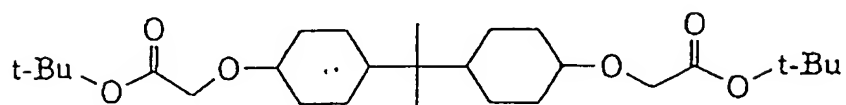
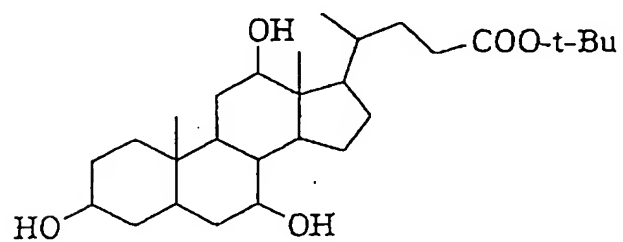
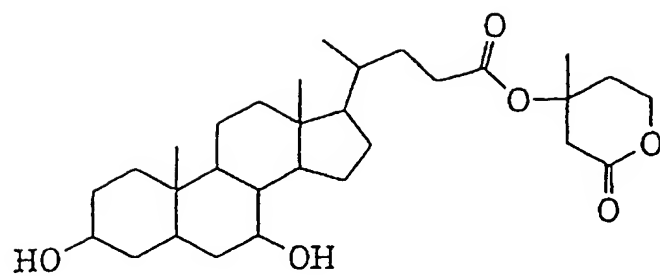
It is preferred that the positive photosensitive composition of the present invention contains (F) a low molecular weight dissolution-inhibiting compound having a molecular weight

of 3,000 or less which has a group capable of decomposing by the action of an acid to increase the solubility in an alkali developer (hereinafter also referred to as "acid-decomposable dissolution-inhibiting compound").

For the purpose of not reducing the permeability of light of 220 nm or less, alicyclic or aliphatic compounds such as cholic acid derivatives containing an acid-decomposable group as described in Proceeding of SPIE, Vol. 2724, page 355 (1996) are preferred as the acid-decomposable dissolution-inhibiting compound (F). The same acid-decomposable groups and alicyclic structures as described above in the acid-decomposable resin can be exemplified.

The addition amount of the acid-decomposable dissolution-inhibiting compound (F) is preferably from 3 to 50 wt%, more preferably from 5 to 40 wt%, based on the solid contents of the entire composition of the positive photosensitive composition.

The specific examples of the acid-decomposable dissolution-inhibiting compound (F) are shown below, however, the present invention is not limited thereto.



(G) Alkali-soluble resin

The positive photosensitive composition of the present invention can contain (G) a resin insoluble in water and soluble in an alkali developer not containing an acid-decomposable group, by which the sensitivity is improved.

Novolak resins having a molecular weight of from 1,000 to 20,000 or so, and polyhydroxystyrene having a molecular weight of from 3,000 to 50,000 or so can be used as such a resin, but since they have large absorption to the light of 250 nm or less, it is preferred to use them after being partially hydrogenated or in an amount of 30 wt% or less of the entire amount of the resins.

Resins having a carboxyl group as an alkali-soluble group can also be used. It is preferred that the resins containing a carboxyl group should contain a monocyclic or polycyclic alicyclic hydrocarbon group for the purpose of improving dry etching resistance. Specifically, copolymers of methacrylic ester having an alicyclic hydrocarbon structure not showing acid decomposability and (meth)acrylic acid, and resins of (meth)acrylic ester of alicyclic hydrocarbon group having carboxyl groups at terminals can be exemplified.

Other additives

The positive photosensitive composition of the present invention can contain, if necessary, dyes, plasticizers, surfactants other than component (D), photo-sensitizers and compounds which accelerate solubility in a developing solution.

Compounds which accelerate solubility in a developing solution for use in the present invention are low molecular weight compounds having two or more phenolic OH groups or one or more carboxyl group(s) and molecular weight of 1,000 or less. When compounds having a carboxyl group is used, they are preferably alicyclic or aliphatic compounds for the same reason as described above.

The preferred addition amount of these solubility-accelerating compounds is preferably from 2 to 50 wt% based on (B) a resin capable of decomposing by the action of an acid to increase the solubility in an alkali developer, more preferably from 5 to 30 wt%. When the amount exceeds 50 wt%, development scum is deteriorated, and pattern deformation is caused at development.

Such a phenol compound having molecular weight of 1,000 or less can be easily synthesized with referring to the methods disclosed, e.g., in JP-A-4-122938, JP-A-2-28531, U.S. Patent 4,916,210, and EP 219294.

The examples of alicyclic or aliphatic compounds having a carboxyl group include carboxylic acid derivatives having a steroid structure such as cholic acid, deoxycholic acid and lithocholic acid, adamantane carboxylic acid derivatives, adamantane dicarboxylic acid, cyclohexanecarboxylic acid, and cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, but the present invention is not limited thereto.

Surfactants other than the component (D) a

fluorine-containing surfactant and/or a silicon-containing surfactant can also be added to the photosensitive composition according to the present invention. The specific examples of the surfactants usable in the present invention include nonionic surfactants such as polyoxyethylene alkyl ethers (e.g., polyoxyethylene lauryl ether, polyoxyethylene stearyl ether, polyoxyethylene cetyl ether and polyoxyethylene oleyl ether), polyoxyethylene alkylaryl ethers (e.g., polyoxyethylene octylphenol ether and polyoxyethylene nonylphenol ether), polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene block copolymers, sorbitan fatty acid esters (e.g., sorbitan monolaurate, sorbitan monopalmitate, sorbitan monostearate, sorbitan monooleate, sorbitan trioleate and sorbitan tristearate), and polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters (e.g., polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monopalmitate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monostearate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan trioleate and polyoxyethylene sorbitan tristearate).

These surfactants may be used alone or in combination of two or more thereof.

Use method

The positive photosensitive composition of the present invention is used by dissolving the above-mentioned components in a predetermined solvent, preferably in the above-mentioned mixed solvent and then coating on a predetermined substrate as follows.

The above photosensitive composition is coated on such

a substrate as used in the production of a precise integrated circuit element (e.g., silicon/silicon dioxide coating) by an appropriate coating method with a spinner or a coater.

After coating, the coated film is subjected to exposure through a prescribed mask, baking and development, thereby a good resist pattern can be obtained. The lights for exposure are preferably far ultraviolet lights having wavelengths of 250 nm or less, more preferably 220 nm or less. Specifically, a KrF excimer laser (248 nm), an ArF excimer laser (193 nm), an F₂ excimer laser (157 nm), an X-ray, an electron beam, etc., can be exemplified.

As the developing solution, an alkaline aqueous solution, such as inorganic alkalis, e.g., sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, sodium silicate, sodium metasilicate, aqueous ammonia, etc., primary amines, e.g., ethylamine, n-propylamine, etc., secondary amines, e.g., diethylamine, di-n-butylamine, etc., tertiary amines, e.g., triethylamine, methyldiethylamine, etc., alcohol amines, e.g., dimethylethanolamine, triethanolamine, etc., quaternary ammonium salts, e.g., tetramethylammonium hydroxide, tetraethylammonium hydroxide, etc., and cyclic amines, e.g., pyrrole, piperidine, etc., can be used.

Further, an appropriate amount of alcohols and surfactants can be added to the above alkaline aqueous solution.

[EXAMPLE]

The present invention is explained in further detail with reference to the following examples, but the present invention should not be construed as being limited thereto.

Synthesis Example of Acid Generator

SYNTHESIS EXAMPLE 1

Synthesis of Phenacyltetrahydrothiophenium
perfluorobutanesulfonate (III-1)

Tetrahydrothiophene (53.2 g) was dissolved in 400 ml of acetonitrile, and thereto was slowly added a solution obtained by dissolving 100 g of phenacyl bromide in 300 ml of acetonitrile, and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours, thereby a powder was precipitated. The reaction solution was poured into 1,500 ml of ethyl acetate, and the powder was filtered out and dried, thus 137 g of phenacyltetrahydrothiophenium bromide was obtained.

Potassium perfluorobutanesulfonate (60 g) was dissolved in a mixed solvent comprising 200 ml of water and 200 ml of methanol, and a solution obtained by dissolving 49.5 g of phenacyltetrahydrothiophenium bromide in 300 ml of water was added to the above solution. The aqueous solution was extracted twice with 200 ml of chloroform, the organic phase was washed with water and concentrated, thereby a crude product was obtained.

Distilled water (300 ml) was added to the above-obtained product, followed by heating at 100°C for 30 minutes and then cooling, thereby a solid product was precipitated. The precipitate was

filtered and re-slurried with diisopropyl ether, thereby 77 g of phenacyltetrahydrothiophenium perfluorobutanesulfonate was obtained.

SYNTHESIS EXAMPLE 2

Synthesis of Phenacyltetrahydrothiophenium perfluorooctanesulfonate (III-3)

Compound (III-3) was synthesized by salt exchange of phenacyltetrahydrothiophenium bromide with perfluorooctanesulfonic acid in the same manner as above.

SYNTHESIS EXAMPLE 3

Synthesis of Phenacyltetrahydrothiophenium trifluoromethanesulfonate (III-2)

Compound (III-2) was synthesized by salt exchange of phenacyltetrahydrothiophenium bromide with trifluoromethanesulfonic acid in the same manner as above.

Other compounds were also obtained in the same manner as above by reacting corresponding phenacyl halogenide and sulfide compound to synthesize phenacylsulfonium halogenide, and then salt exchanging with sulfonic acid (salt).

SYNTHESIS EXAMPLE 4

Synthesis of Acid Generator (II-11)

Tetrahydrothiophene (11.8 g) was dissolved in 100 ml of acetonitrile, and 20 g of 1-bromo-3,3-dimethyl-2-butanone was slowly added to the above solution. The reaction solution was stirred at room temperature for two days, thereby a powder was precipitated. After adding 100 ml of ethyl acetate to the

reaction solution, the powder was filtered out, washed with ethyl acetate and dried, thereby 24 g of 2-oxo-3,3-dimethylbutyltetrahydrothiophenium bromide was obtained.

Potassium perfluorobutanesulfonate (10 g) was dissolved in a mixed solvent comprising 500 ml of water and 100 ml of methanol, and a solution obtained by dissolving 7.7 g of 2-oxo-3,3-dimethylbutyltetrahydrothiophenium bromide in 50 ml of methanol was added to the above solution. The aqueous solution was extracted twice with 100 ml of chloroform, the organic phase was washed with water and concentrated, thereby an oily product was obtained. The above-obtained product was concentrated again with ethyl acetate, thereby a solid product was obtained. The solid product was filtered and re-slurried with diisopropyl ether, to thereby obtain 9 g of 2-oxo-3,3-dimethylbutyltetrahydrothiophenium perfluorobutanesulfonate.

2-Oxocyclohexylmethyl (2-norbornyl)sulfonium trifluoromethanesulfonate (II-4) was synthesized according to synthesis method 1 disclosed in JP-A-8-27102.

Other sulfonium-based acid generators not having an aromatic ring were obtained in the same manner as above by reacting corresponding sulfide compound and alkyl halide to synthesize sulfonium halogenide, and then salt exchanging with sulfonic acid (salt).

Synthesis of Resin

SYNTHESIS EXAMPLE 1

Synthesis of Resin (1) (side chain type)

2-Ethyl-2-adamantyl methacrylate and butyrolactone methacrylate in proportion of 55/45 were dissolved in a mixed solvent of a 5/5 ratio of methyl ethyl ketone/tetrahydrofuran to prepare 100 ml of a solution having a solid concentration of 20%. V-65 (manufactured by Wako Pure Chemical Industries) was added to the above solution in an amount of 2 mol%, and the mixed solution was dropwise added to 10 ml of methyl ethyl ketone heated at 60°C over 4 hours under a nitrogen stream. After termination of dripping, the reaction solution was heated for 4 hours, V-65 was added again in an amount of 1 mol%, and the solution was stirred for 4 hours. After completion of the reaction, the reaction solution was cooled to room temperature, crystallized in 3 liters of a mixed solvent of a 1/1 ratio of distilled water/isopropyl alcohol, and resin (1) precipitated as a white powder was recovered.

The composition ratio of the polymer obtained by C¹³NMR was 46/54. The weight average molecular weight measured by GPC and calculated in terms of standard polystyrene was 10,700.

Resins (2) to (15) were synthesized in the same manner as in Synthesis Example 1.

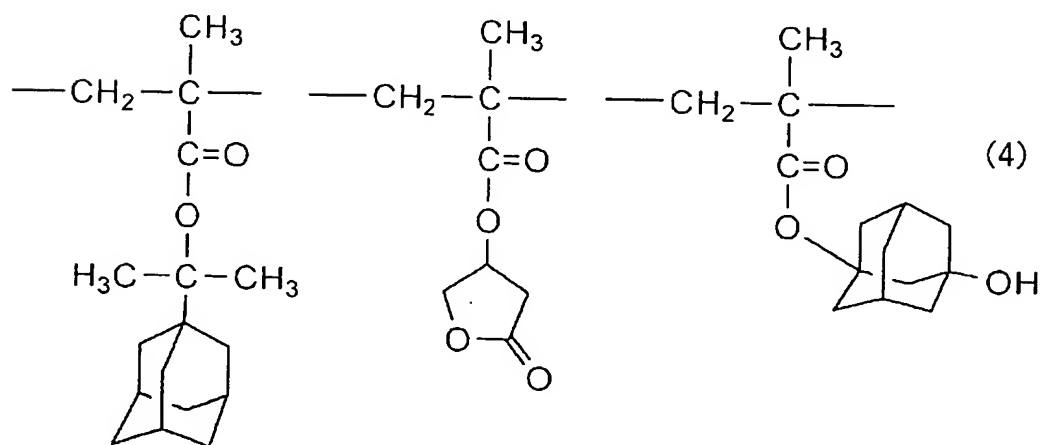
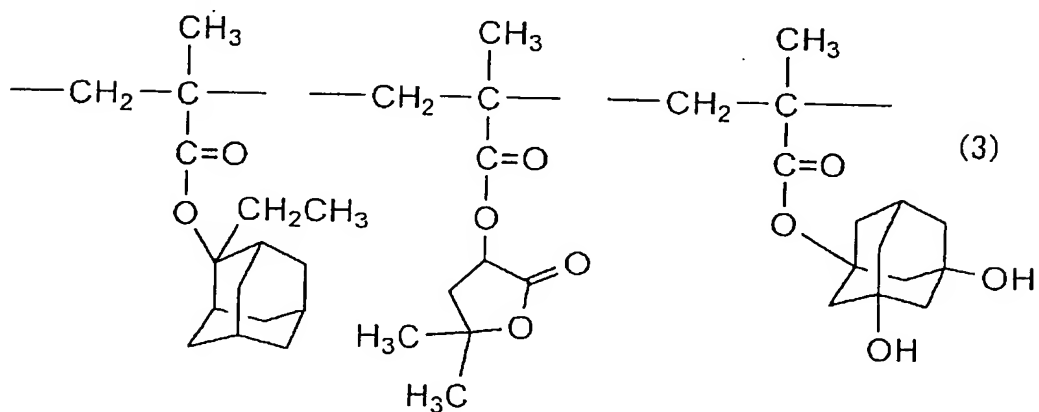
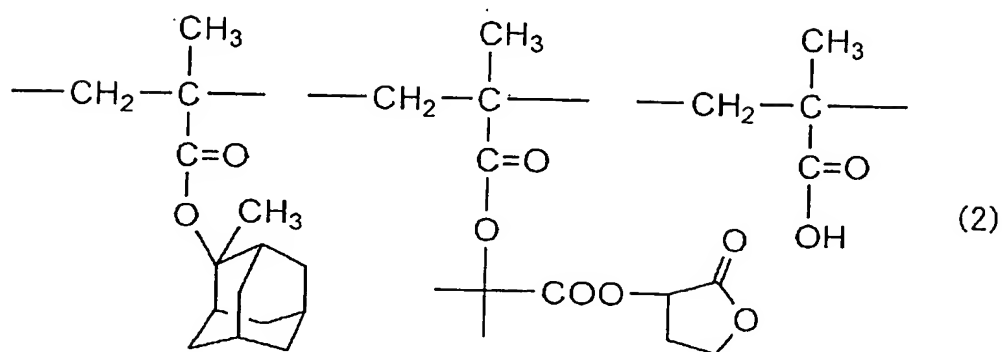
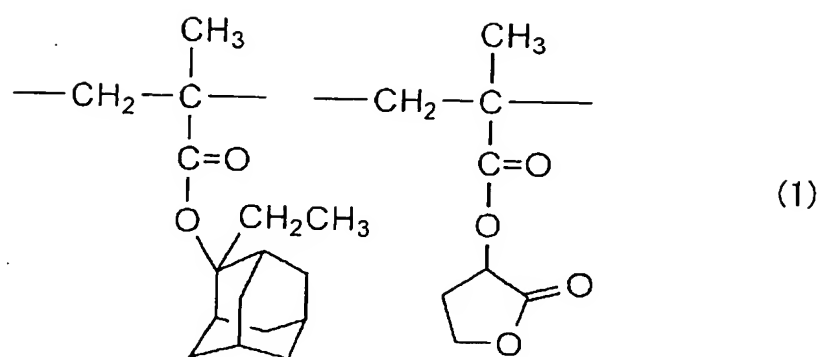
Composition ratios and molecular weights of resins (2) to (15) are shown in Table 1 below. Repeating units 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the Table are the orders from the left side to the right

side of each structure.

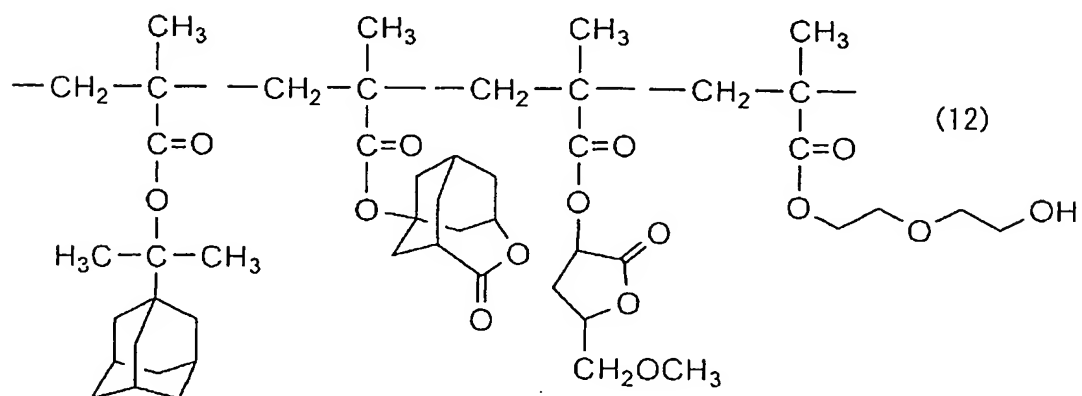
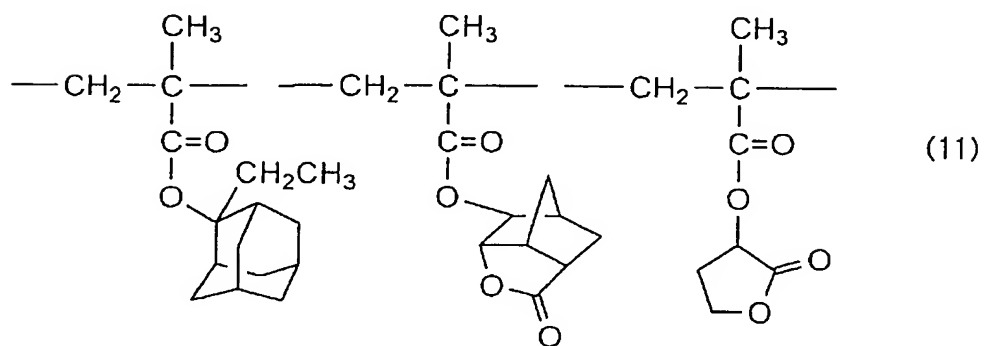
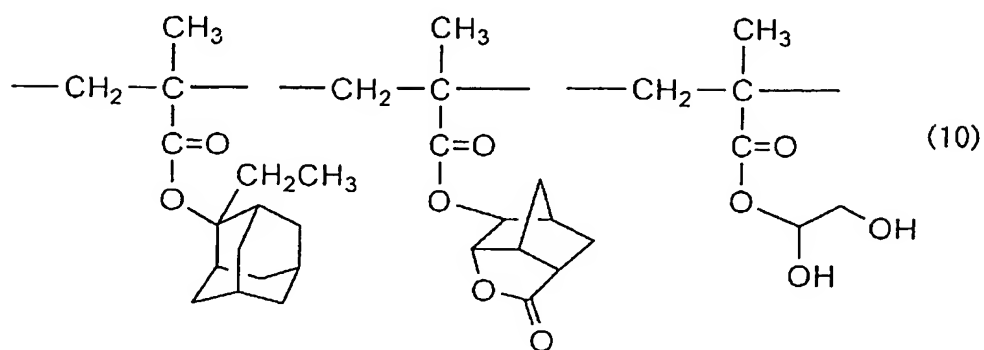
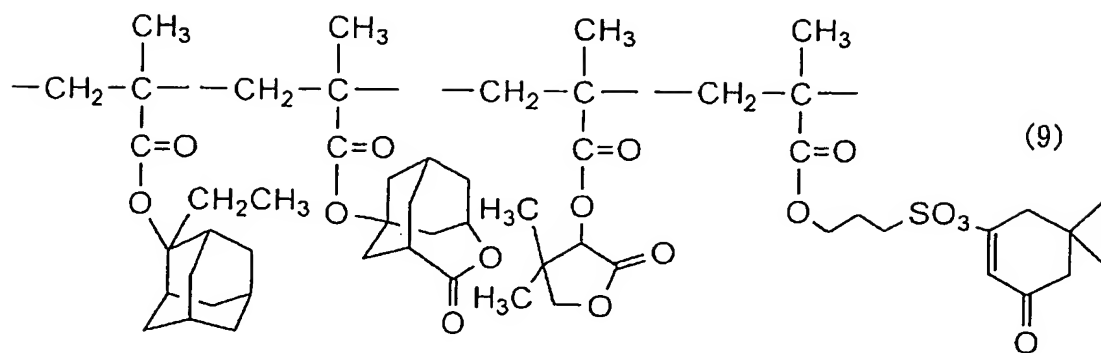
TABLE 1

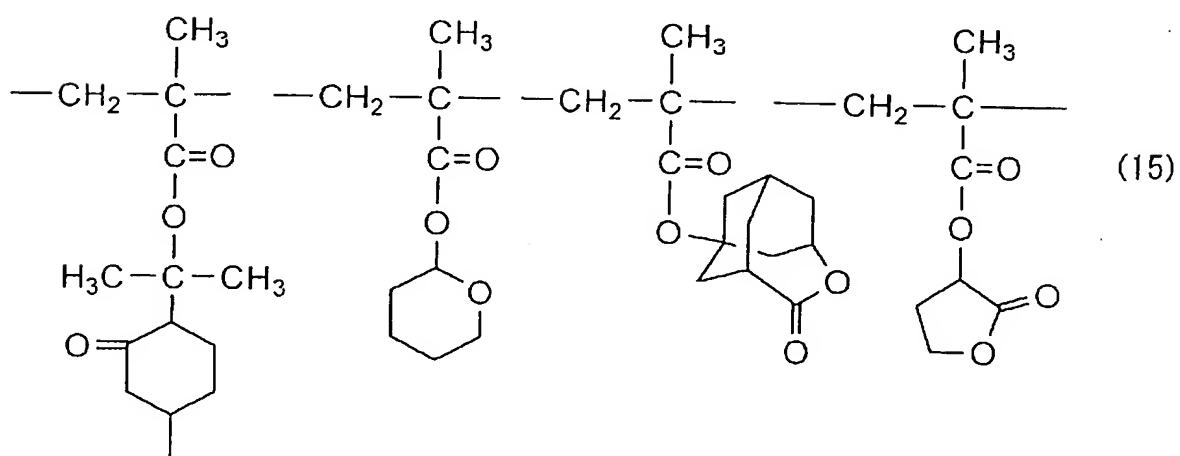
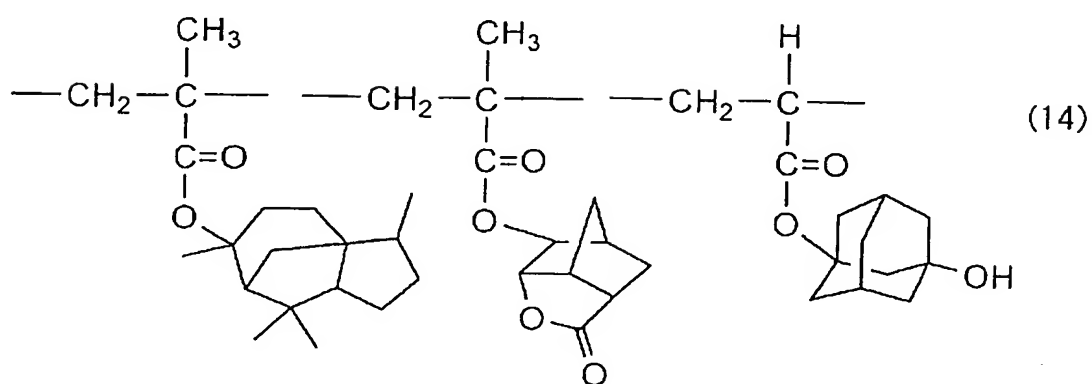
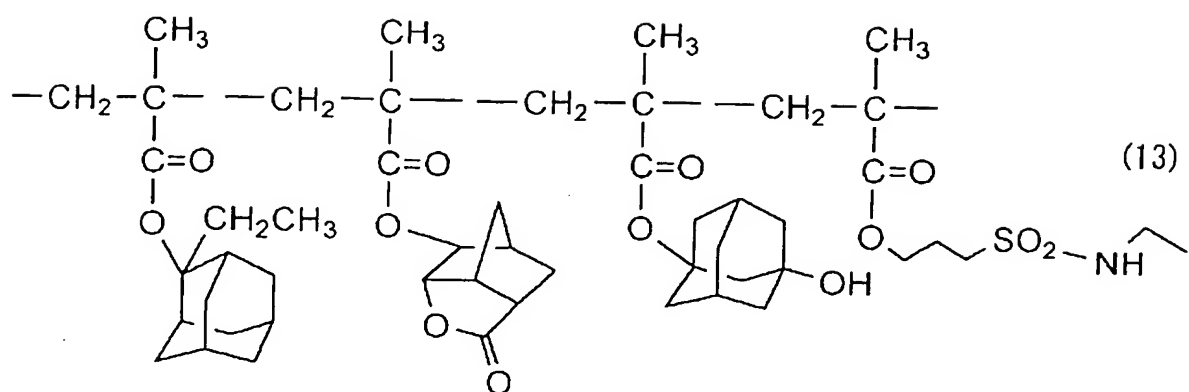
Resin No.	Repeating Unit 1 (mol%)	Repeating Unit 2 (mol%)	Repeating Unit 3 (mol%)	Repeating Unit 4 (mol%)	Molecular Weight
2	53	40	7		13,400
3	46	34	20		9,400
4	42	31	27		8,300
5	49	42	9		9,900
6	42	30	28		10,300
7	39	35	26		8,900
8	46	22	30	2	12,900
9	42	20	32	6	11,600
10	46	42	12		9,200
11	38	32	30		11,300
12	42	18	38	2	13,800
13	38	31	29	2	11,100
14	50	31	19		11,700
15	35	6	16	43	13,200

The structures of the above resins (1) to (15) are shown below.









SYNTHESIS EXAMPLE 2

Synthesis of Resin (16) (main chain type)

Norbornene carboxylic acid t-butyl ester, norbornene carboxylic acid butyrolactone ester and maleic anhydride (40/10/50 in molar ratio), and THF (60 wt% at the reaction temperature) were put in a separable flask, and heated at 60°C under a nitrogen stream. When the reaction temperature was stabilized, 2 mol% of a radical initiator V-601 (manufactured by Wako Pure Chemical Industries) was added to initiate polymerization. Heating was performed for 12 hours. The obtained reaction mixture was diluted two times with tetrahydrofuran, and then put into a mixed solvent of hexane/isopropyl alcohol (1/1) to thereby precipitate a white powder. The precipitate was filtered and dried, thereby resin (16) was obtained.

The weight average molecular weight measured by GPC and calculated in terms of polystyrene of the resin (16) was 8,300.

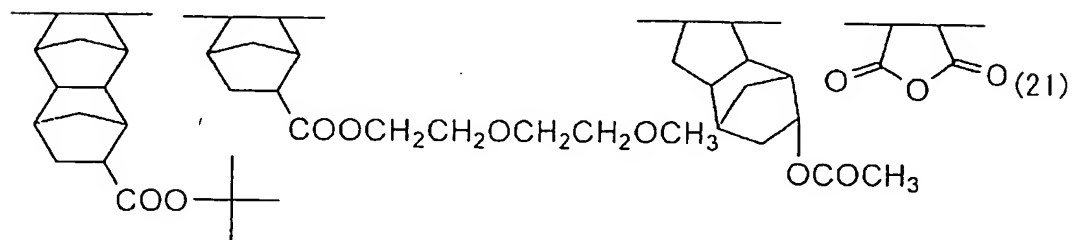
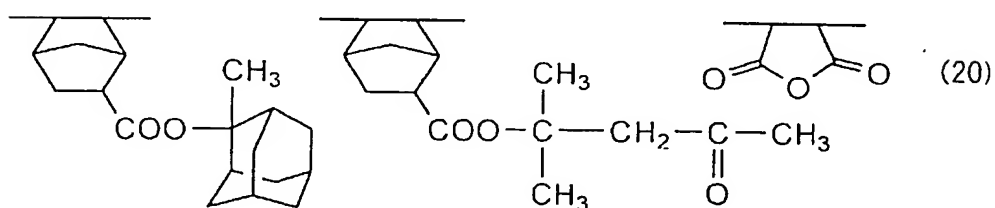
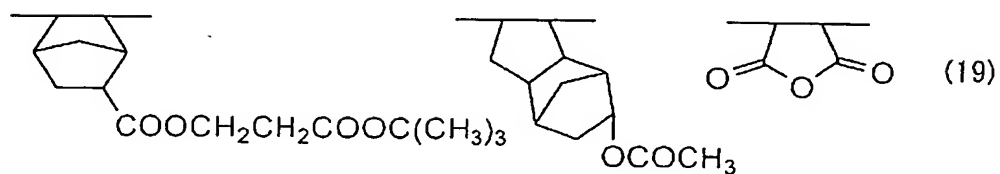
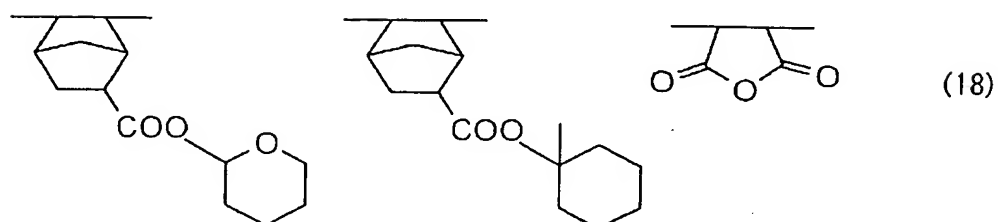
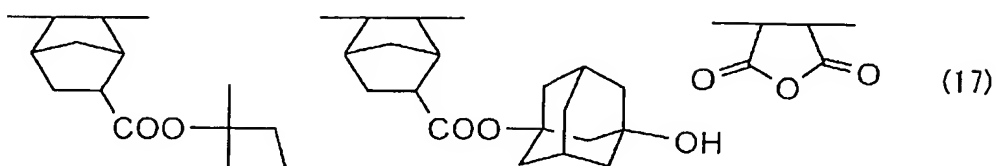
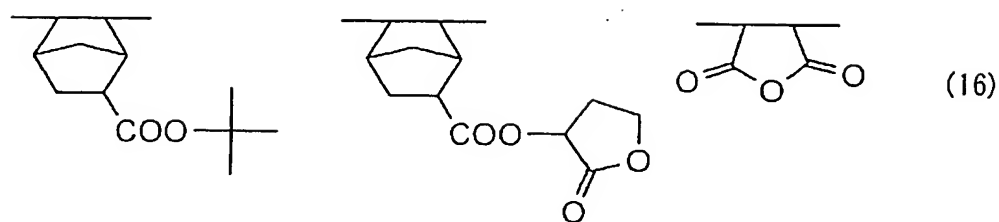
The molar ratio of the repeating units of norbornene carboxylic acid t-butyl ester/norbornene carboxylic acid butyrolactone ester/maleic anhydride of the resin (16) was confirmed to be 42/8/50 by NMR spectrum.

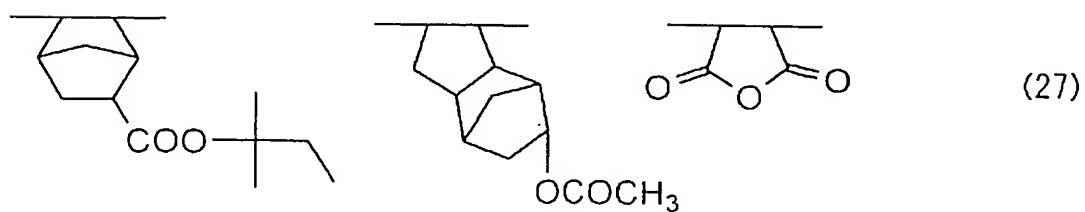
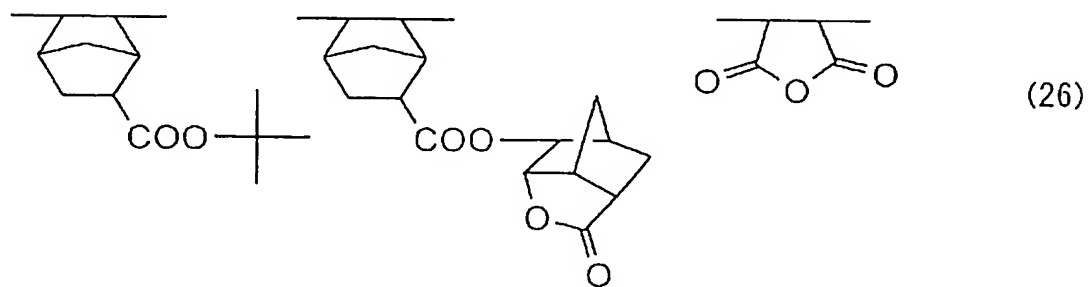
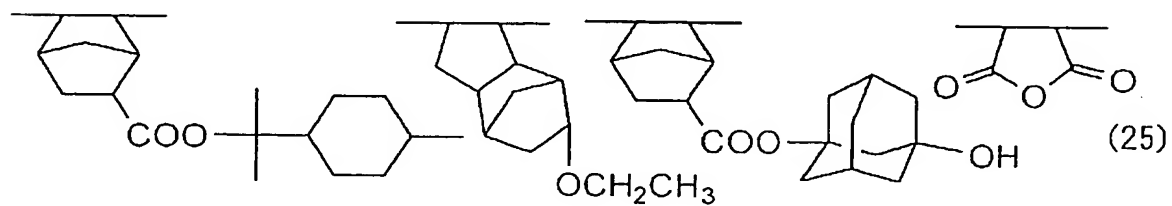
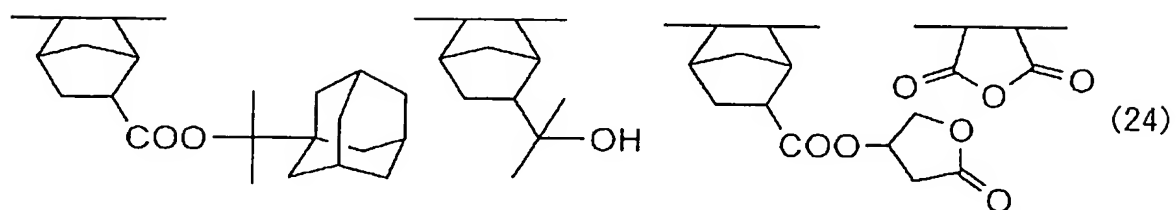
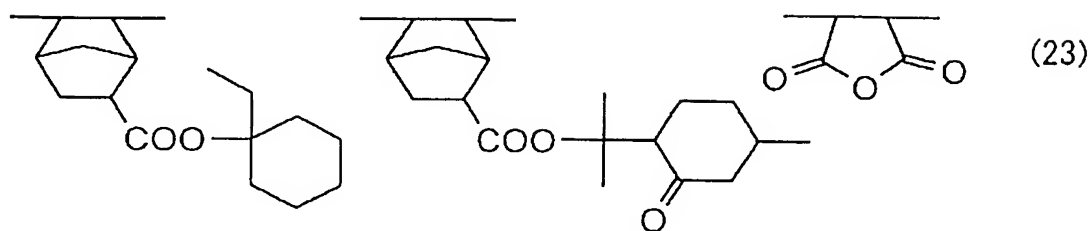
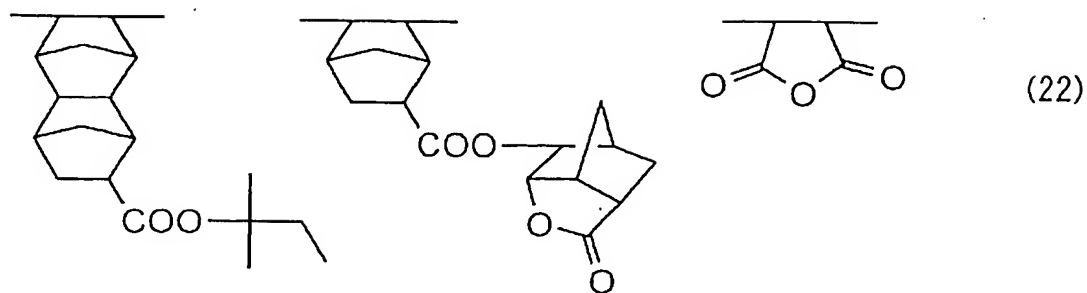
Resins (17) to (27) were synthesized in the same manner as in Synthesis Example 2. Composition ratios and molecular weights of resins (17) to (27) are shown in Table 2 below. Alicyclic olefin units 1, 2 and 3 in the Table are the orders from the left side to the right side of each structure.

TABLE 2

Resin No.	Alicyclic Olefin Unit (mol%)	Alicyclic Olefin Unit (mol%)	Alicyclic Olefin Unit (mol%)	Maleic Anhydride (mol%)	Molecular Weight
17	35	15		50	8,200
18	20	30		50	8,600
19	36	14		50	9,100
20	31	19		50	7,900
21	35	5	10	50	8,300
22	33	17		50	8,500
23	38	12		50	8,900
24	31	6	13	50	8,100
25	33	7	10	50	9,100
26	40	10		50	9,300
27	34	16		50	8,800

The structures of resins (16) to (27) are shown below.





SYNTHESIS EXAMPLE 3

Synthesis of Resin (28) (hybrid type)

Norbornene, maleic anhydride, t-butyl acrylate, and 2-methylcyclohexyl-2-propyl acrylate in molar ratio of 35/35/20/10 were put into a reaction vessel, and dissolved in a tetrahydrofuran to prepare a solution having a solid content of 60%. The solution was heated at 65°C under a nitrogen stream.

When the reaction temperature was stabilized, 1 mol% of a radical initiator V-601 (manufactured by Wako Pure Chemical Industries) was added to initiate polymerization. After heating for 8 hour, the reaction mixture was diluted two times with tetrahydrofuran, and then put into a hexane of five time volume of the reaction mixture, thereby a white powder was precipitated. The precipitate was filtered, and dissolved in methyl ethyl ketone, and reprecipitated in a mixed solvent of hexane/t-butylmethyl ether (1/1) of five time volume. The precipitated white powder was filtered and dried, thereby resin (28) was obtained.

The weight average molecular weight measured by GPC and calculated in terms of polystyrene of the resin (28) was 12,100.

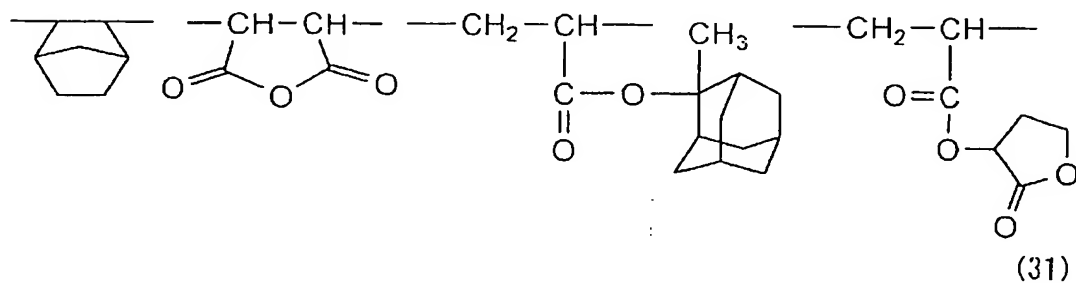
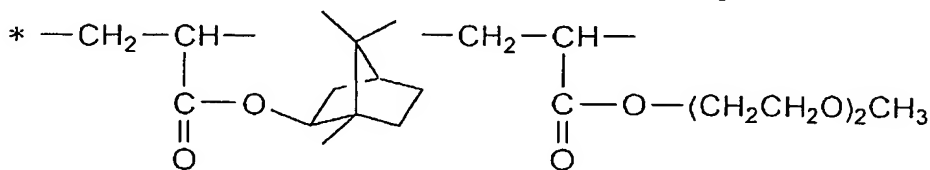
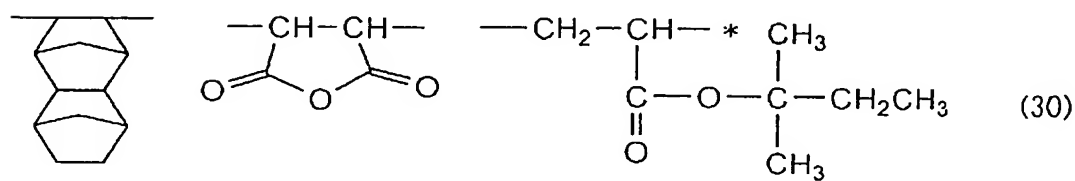
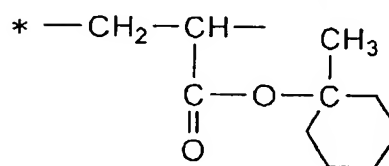
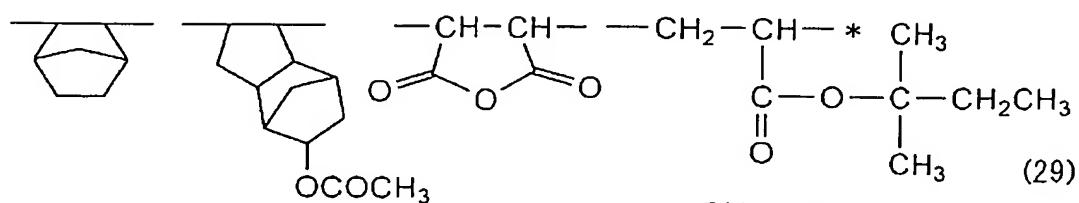
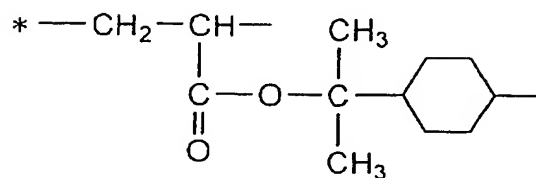
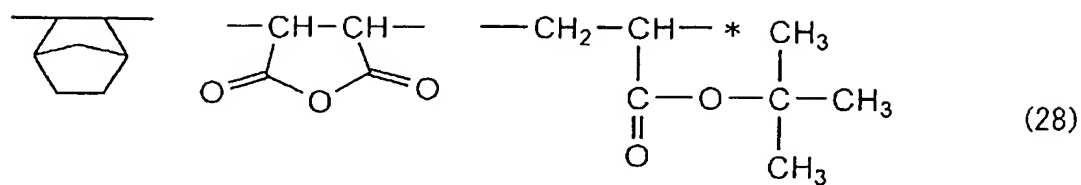
The composition of norbornene/maleic anhydride/t-butyl acrylate/2-methylcyclohexyl-2-propyl acrylate of the resin (28) was confirmed to be 32/39/19/10 in molar ratio by NMR spectrum.

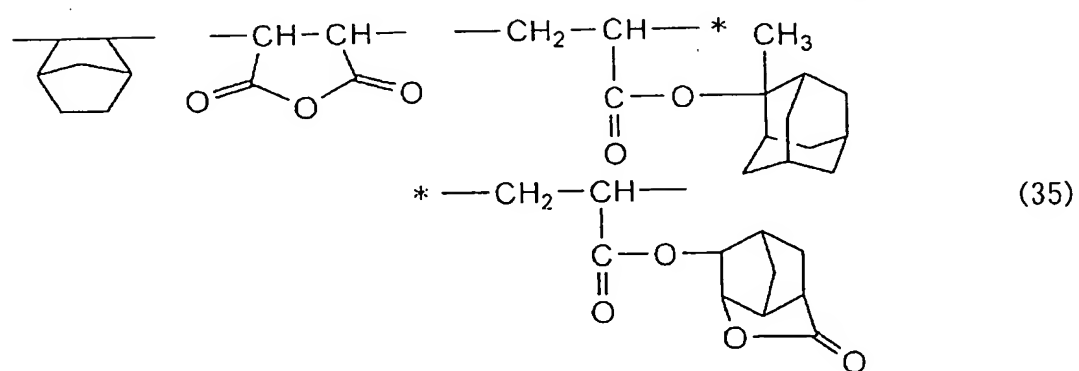
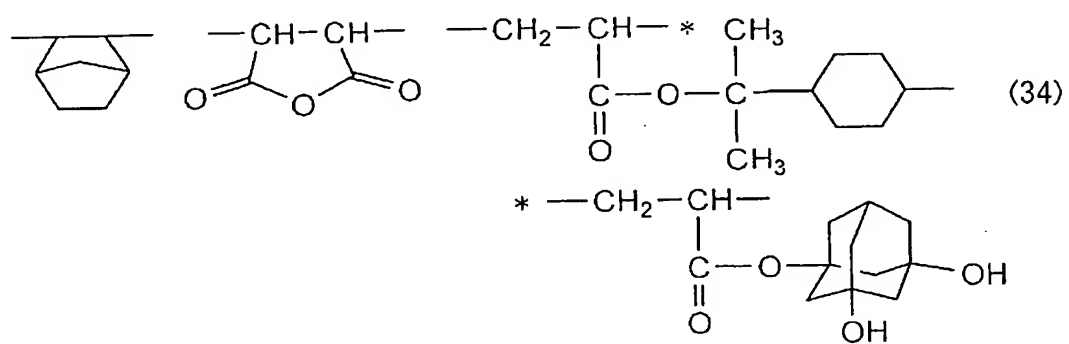
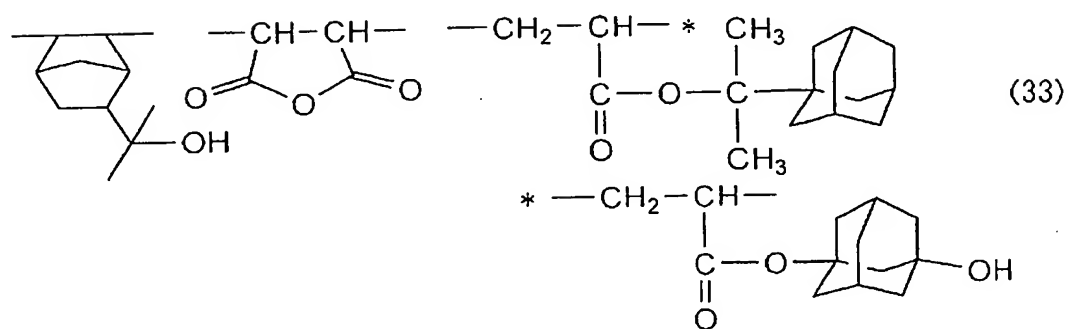
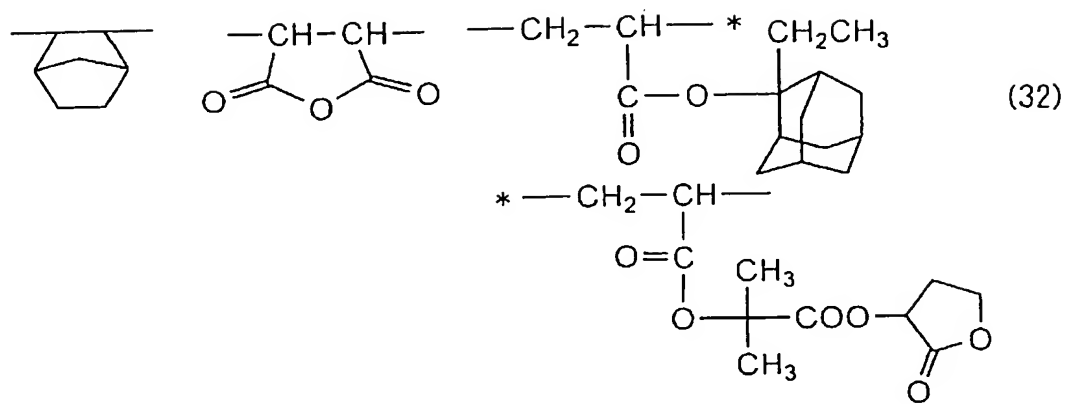
Resins (29) to (41) were synthesized in the same manner as in Synthesis Example 3. Composition ratios and molecular weights of resins (29) to (41) are shown in Table 3 below.

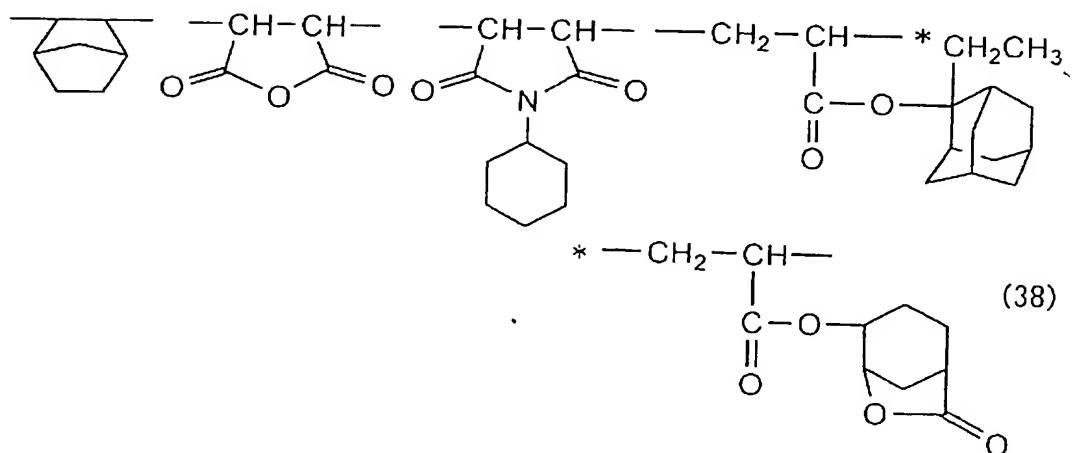
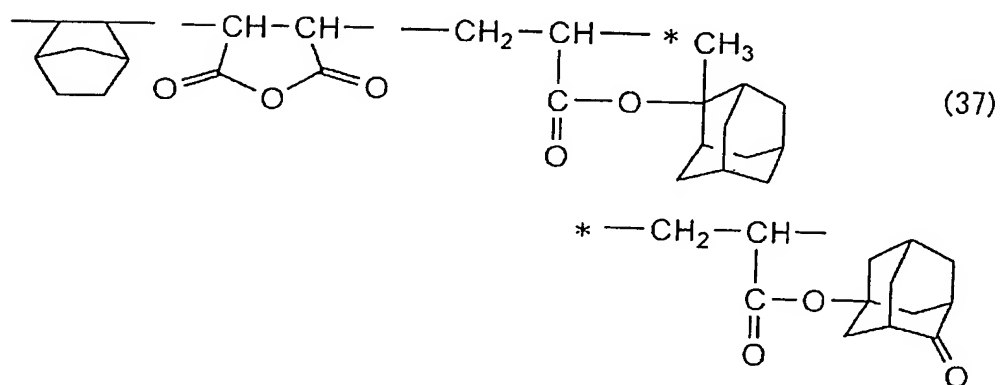
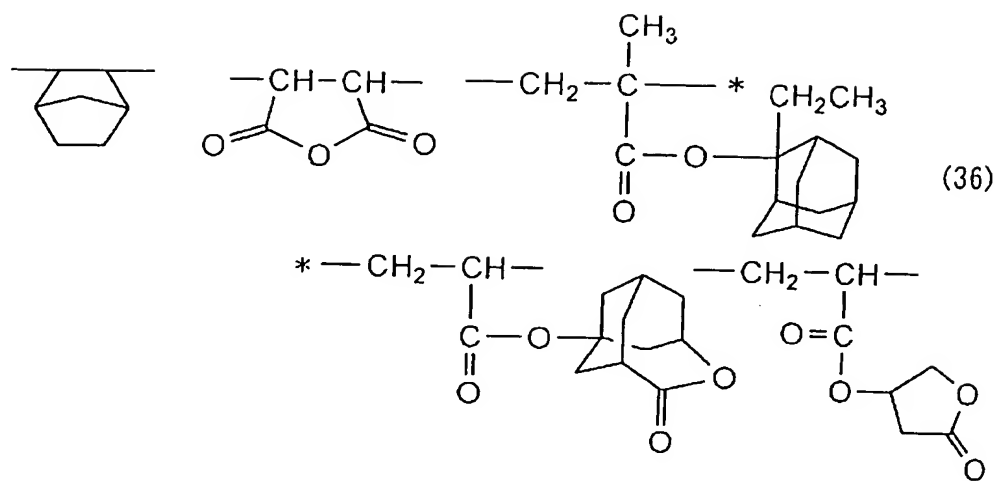
TABLE 3

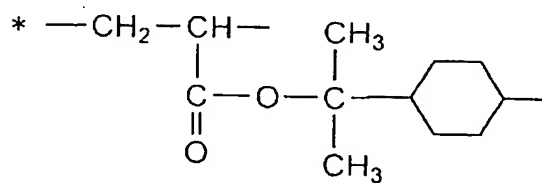
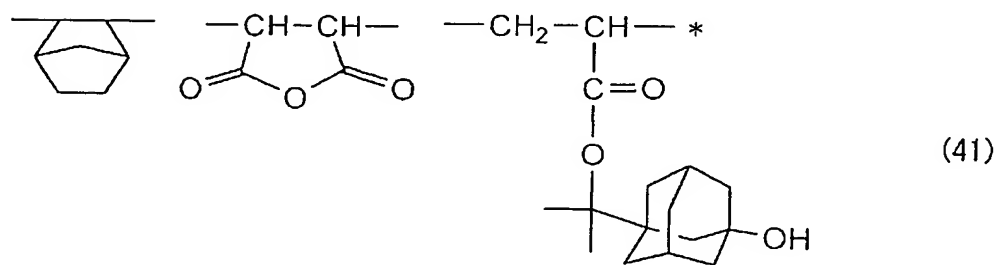
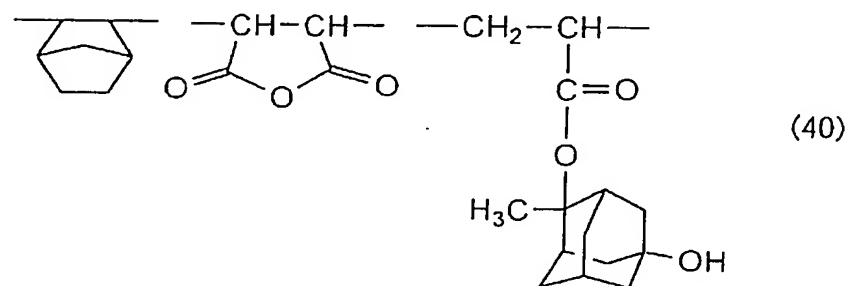
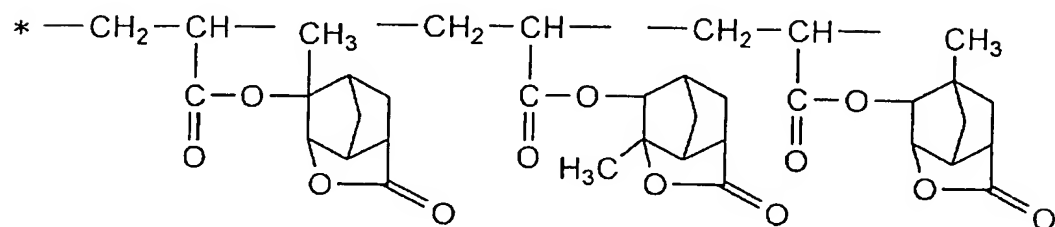
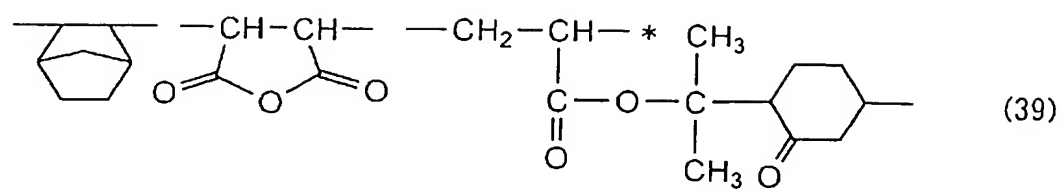
Resin No.	Norbornene	Acid Anhydride	(Meth)acrylate	Molecular Weight
29	20/15	40	15/10	11,900
30	32	37	20/8/3	10,500
31	16	21	36/27	13,900
32	15	22	34/29	12,300
33	17	20	33/30	12,400
34	18	24	32/26	13,000
35	15	19	36/30	12,700
36	15	20	29/10/26	13,100
37	17	21	31/31	12,800
38	18	17/3	30/32	13,300
39	16	19	31/12/11/11	12,600
40	20	22	58	14,700
41	23	28	35/14	13,300

The structures of resins (28) to (41) are shown below.









SYNTHESIS EXAMPLE 4

Synthesis of Resin (42) (hybrid type)

Norbornene carboxylic acid t-butyl ester, maleic anhydride, 2-methyl-2-adamantyl acrylate, and norbornene lactone acrylate in molar ratio of 20/20/35/25 were put into a reaction vessel, and dissolved in a mixed solvent of methyl ethyl ketone/tetrahydrofuran (1/1) to prepare a solution having a solid content of 60%. The solution was heated at 65°C under a nitrogen stream. When the reaction temperature was stabilized, 3 mol% of a radical initiator V-601 (manufactured by Wako Pure Chemical Industries) was added to initiate polymerization. After heating for 12 hour, the reaction mixture was put into a hexane of five time volume of the reaction mixture, thereby a white powder was precipitated. The precipitate was again dissolved in 1/1 solvent of methyl ethyl ketone/tetrahydrofuran, and put into hexane/methyl-t-butyl ether of five time volume and a white powder was precipitated. The precipitate was filtered. This procedure was repeated again and dried, thereby resin (42) was obtained.

The weight average molecular weight measured by RI analysis and calculated in terms of polystyrene of the resin (42) was 11,600. The amount of the residual monomer was 0.4%. The composition of norbornene/maleic anhydride/2-methyl-2-adamantyl acrylate/norbornene lactone acrylate of the resin (42) was confirmed to be 18/23/34/25 in molar ratio by NMR spectrum.

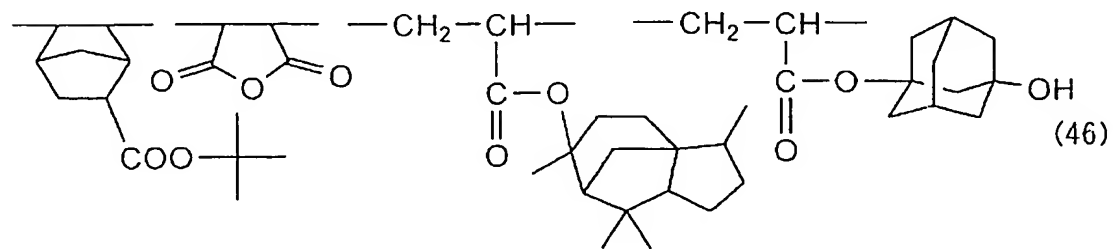
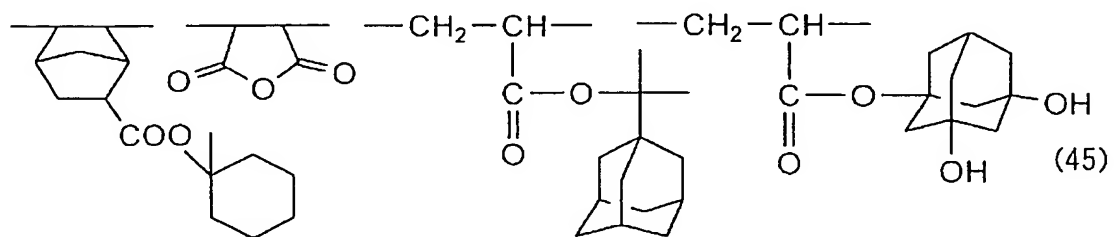
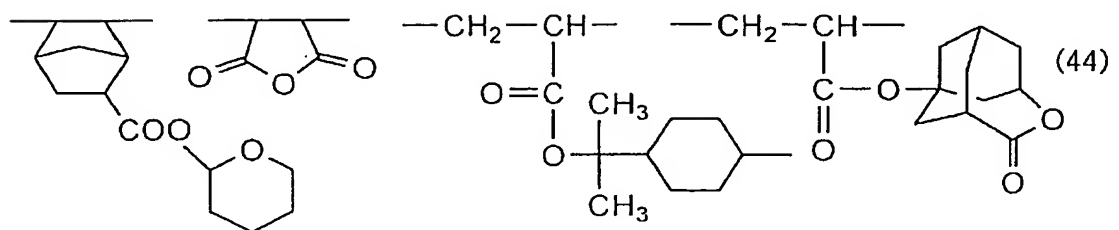
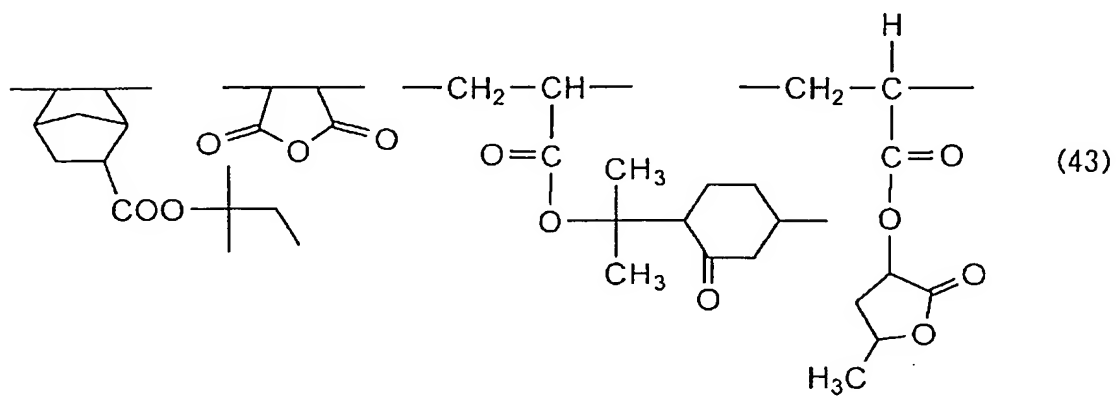
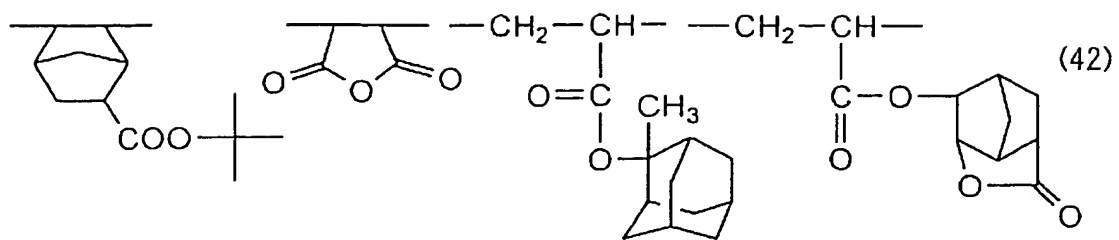
Resins (43) to (66) were synthesized in the same manner as in Synthesis Example 4. Composition ratios and molecular

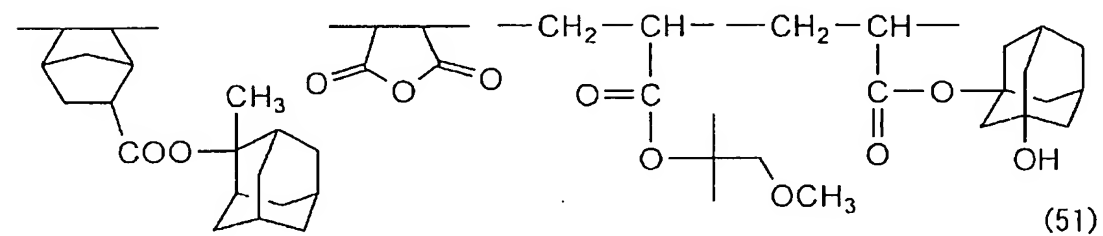
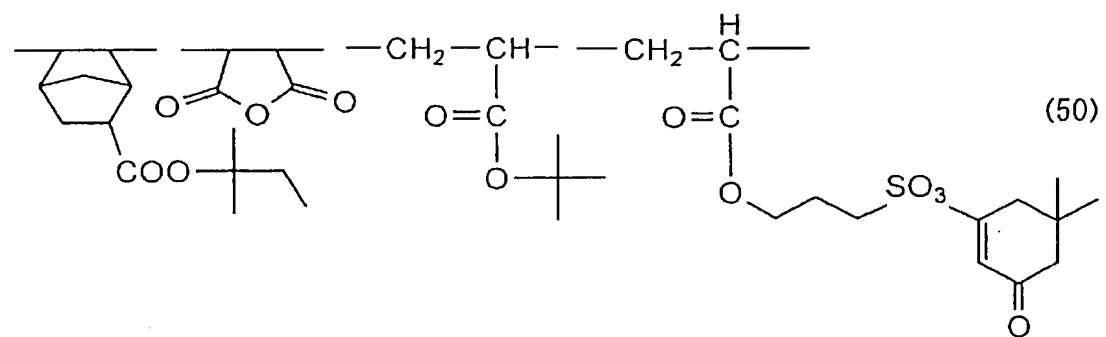
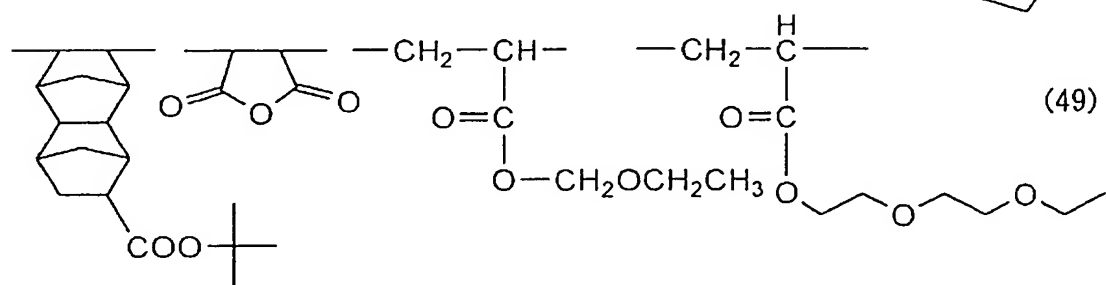
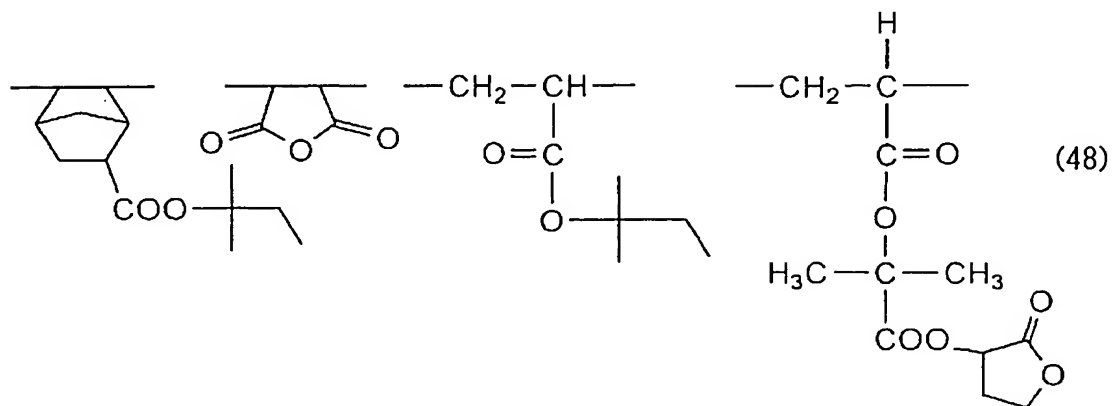
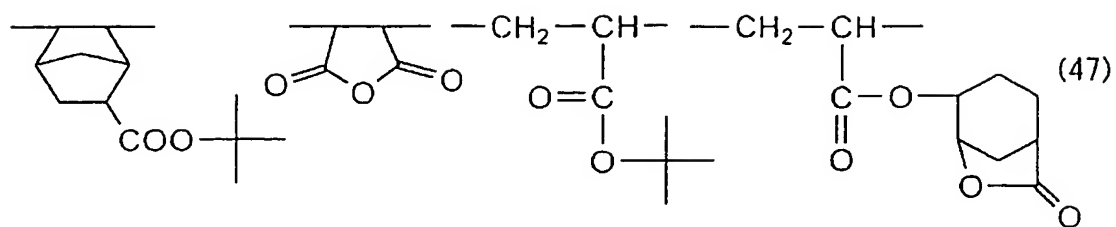
weights of resins (43) to (66) are shown in Table 4 below.

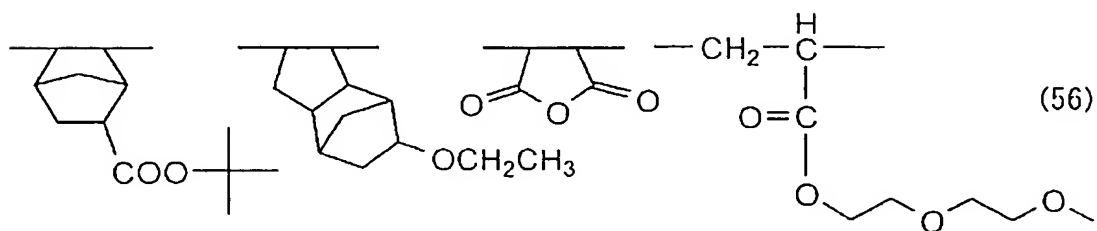
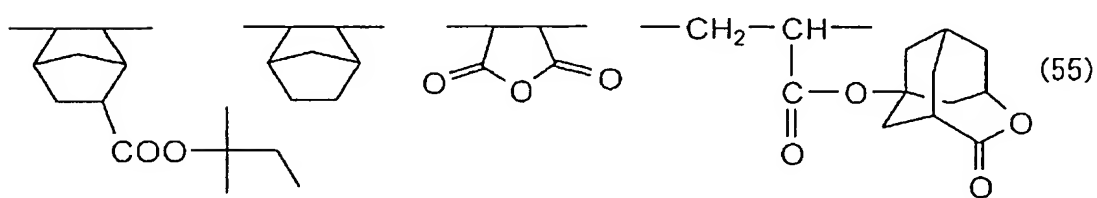
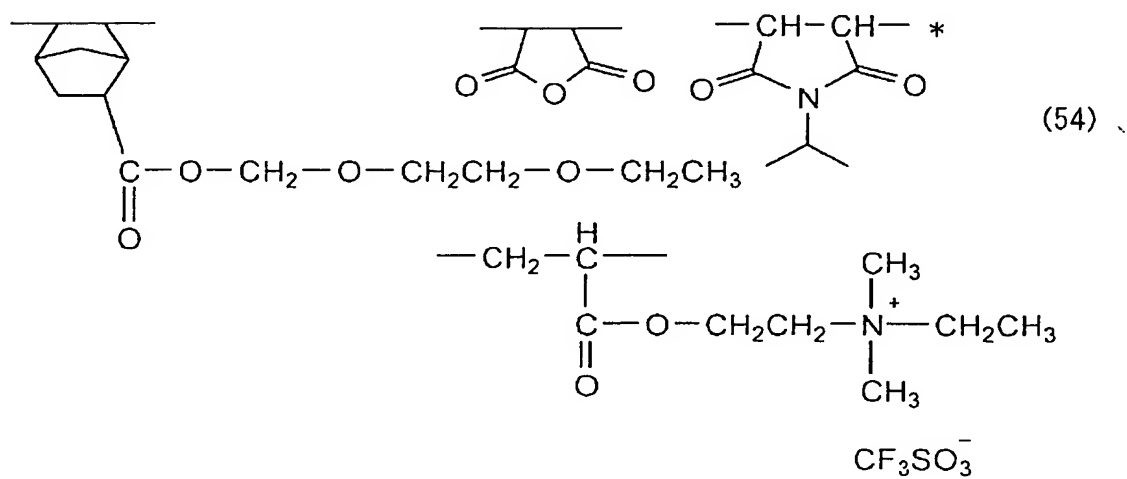
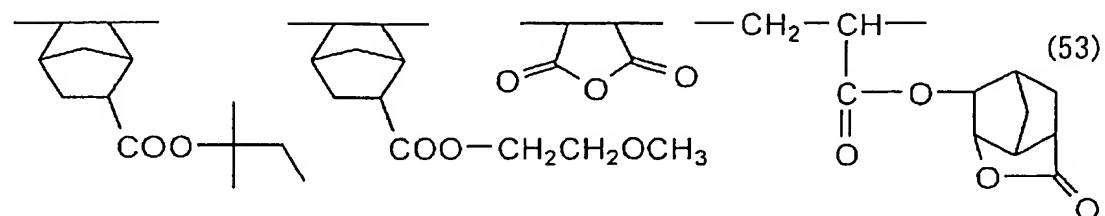
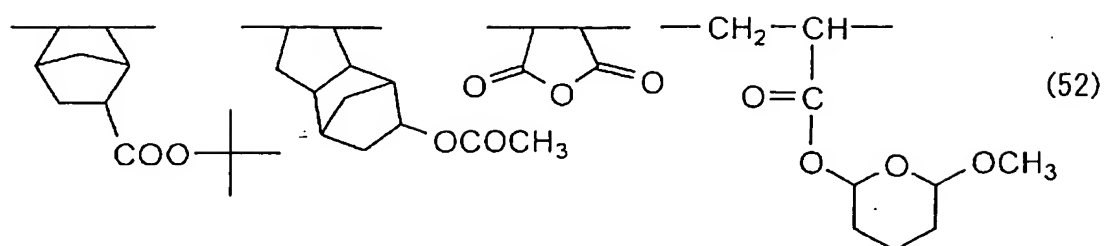
TABLE 4

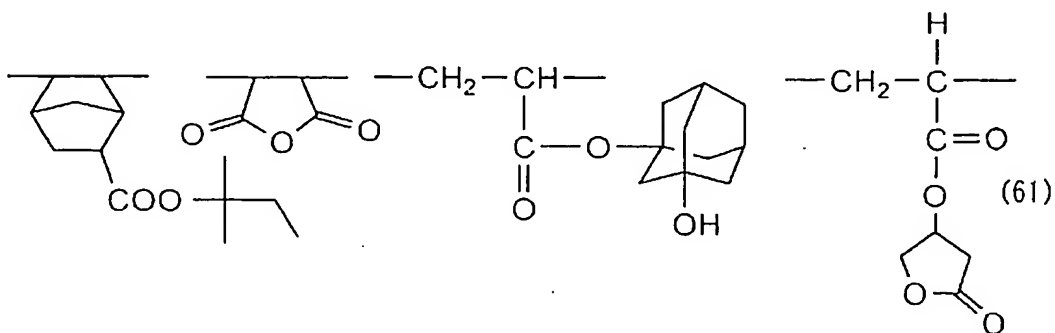
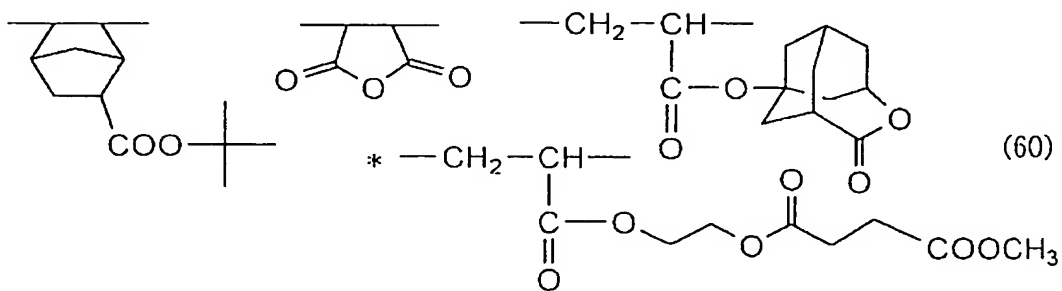
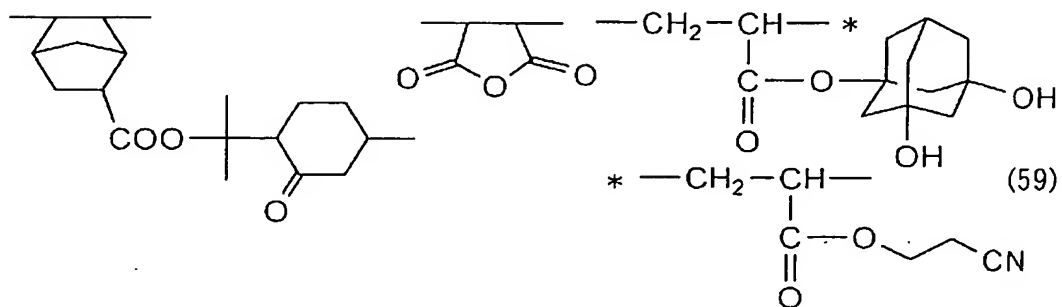
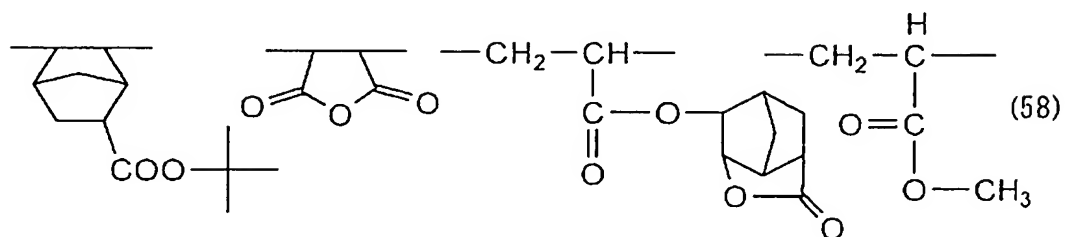
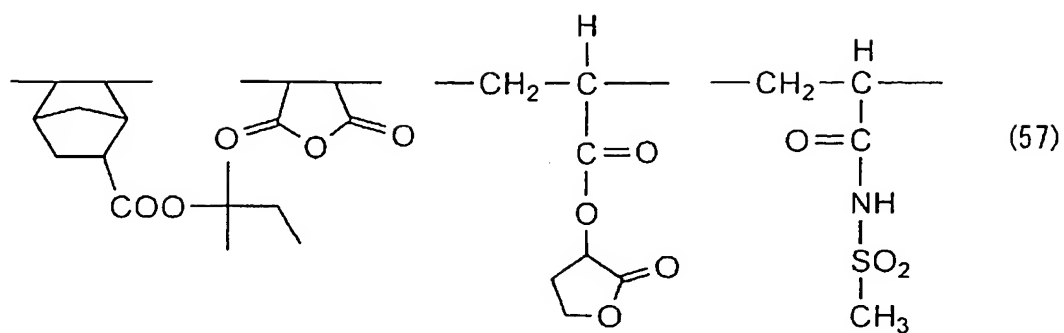
Resin No.	Alicyclic Olefin	Monomer of Formula (III) (anhydride)	Acrylic Monomer	Molecular Weight
43	24	29	31/16	12,300
44	21	28	32/29	11,100
45	22	27	28/23	11,300
46	27	31	24/18	10,700
47	32	38	20/10	9,700
48	31	35	21/13	9,200
49	29	35	20/16	8,900
50	35	39	23/3	8,700
51	28	36	22/14	10,600
52	28/8	44	20	9,100
53	30/6	42	22	7,700
54	46	47/3	4	6,300
55	37/6	48	9	6,800
56	34/10	51	5	7,400
57	41	43	10/6	6,700
58	39	42	11/8	8,800
59	36	42	10/12	9,300
60	39	43	14/4	9,800
61	38	42	15/5	9,300
62	24	27	25/24	12,600
63	19	24	40/17	9,500
64	29	32	34/5	10,400
65	20	25	26/5/24	13,400
66	16	24	32/24/4	12,700

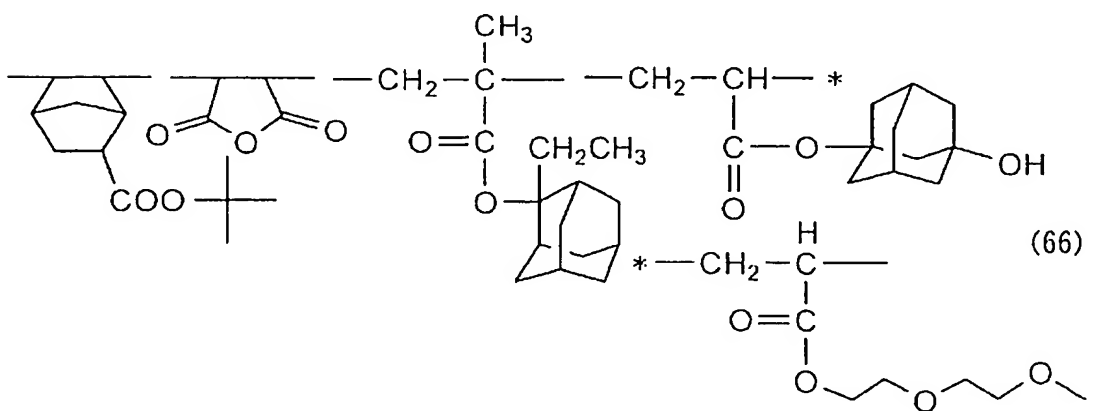
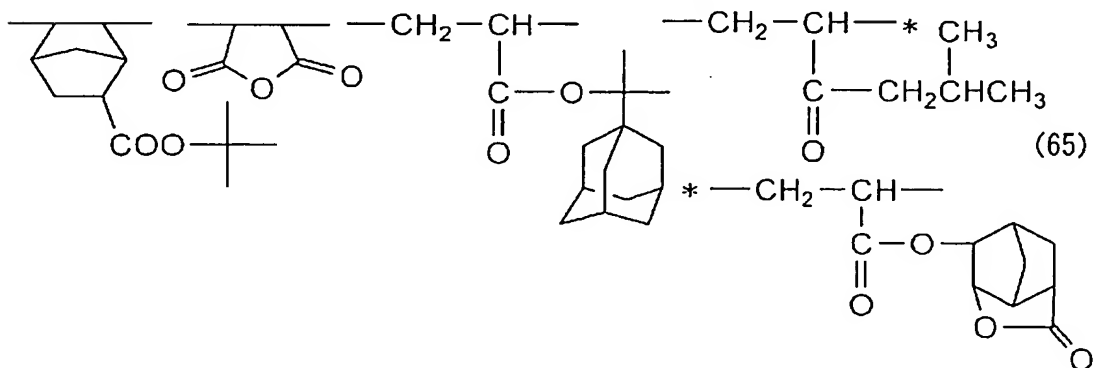
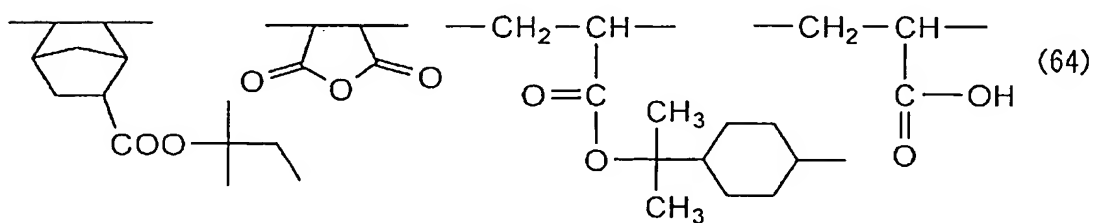
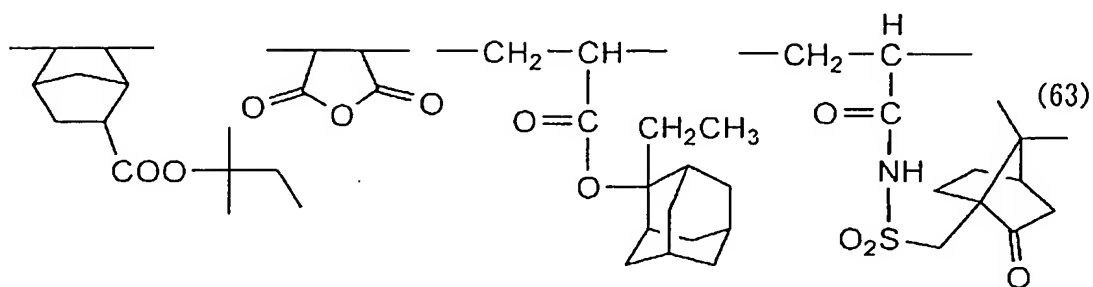
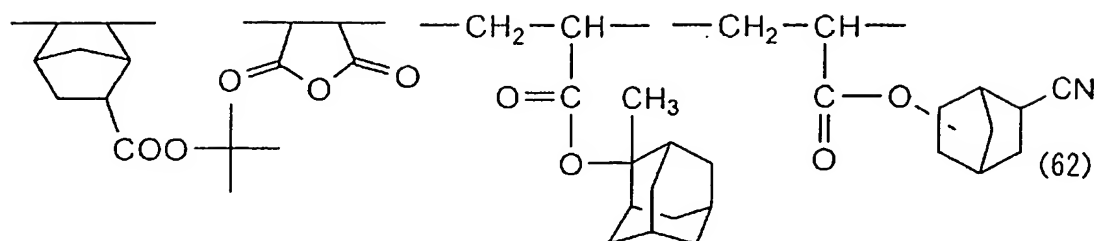
The structures of resins (42) to (66) are shown below.











Preparation of resist

EXAMPLES 1 TO 66 AND COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES 1 TO 4

Each component shown in Tables 5 to 8 below was dissolved and a solution having a solid content concentration of 12 wt% was prepared, and the solution was filtered through a Teflon filter having a pore diameter of 0.1 μm . Each of the prepared composition was evaluated in the methods described below. The results obtained are shown in Tables 9 to 12.

TABLE 5

Example No.	Resin (10 g)	Acid Generator (II) (g)	Acid Generator (III) (g)	Others (g)	Base (g)	Surfactant (0.03 g)	Weight Ratio of Solvent
1	(1)	II-2 (0.5)	III-2 (0.2)		DBN (0.02)	W-1	A1/B1 (95/5)
2	(2)	II-1 (0.6)	III-1 (0.5)		TPI (0.03)	W-1	A1 (100)
3	(3)	II-11 (0.6)	III-11 (0.7)		TPSA (0.02)	W-2	A1/B1 (90/10)
4	(4)	II-15 (0.2)	III-15 (0.3)	a1 (0.1)	HEP (0.01)	W-2	A3/B2 (80/20)
5	(5)	II-2 (0.4)	III-2 (0.4)	TPST (0.1)	TPI (0.03)	W-3	A2/B1 (90/10)
6	(6)	II-12 (1)	III-12 (0.1)		DIA (0.01)	W-3	A4/B1 (90/10)
7	(7)	II-17 (0.6)	III-17 (0.15)		DIA (0.007)	W-4	A1/B1 (50/50)
8	(8)	II-1 (0.4)	III-1 (0.4)		DBN (0.02)	W-4	A1/B1 (90/10)
9	(9)	II-1 (0.7)	III-1 (0.7)	LCB (1)	TPI (0.03)	W-1	A5/B2 (90/10)
10	(10)	II-14 (0.8)	III-14 (0.2)		TPI (0.02)	W-1	A1/B1 (95/5)
11	(11)	II-14 (0.7)	III-14 (0.7)		TPI (0.03)	W-2	A1/B1 (90/10)
12	(12)	II-1 (0.5)	III-1 (0.3)		TPI (0.03)	W-2	A1/B1 (95/5)
13	(13)	II-1 (0.5)	III-1 (0.3)	a5 (0.2)	TPI (0.03)	W-3	A1/B1 (95/5)
14	(14)	II-4 (0.5)	III-4 (0.3)		DBN (0.02)	W-3	A1/B1 (95/5)
15	(15)	II-16 (0.2)	III-16 (0.2)		TPI (0.03)	W-4	A1/B1 (80/20)

Example No.	Resin (10 g)	Acid Generator (II) (g)	Acid Generator (III) (g)	Others (g)	Base (g)	Surfactant (0.03 g)	Weight Ratio of Solvent
16	(16)	II-1 (0.6)	III-1 (0.15)		DIA (0.01)	W-4	A1/B1 (80/20)
17	(17)	II-1 (0.1)	III-1 (0.7)		TPI (0.03)	W-4	A1/B1 (95/5)
18	(18)	II-8 (0.4)	III-8 (0.6)		DCMA (0.01)	W-4	A1/B1 (95/5)
19	(19)	II-13 (0.7)	III-13 (0.3)		TPI (0.02)	W-4	A1/B1 (95/5)
20	(20)	II-8 (0.5)	III-8 (0.5)		TPI (0.03)	W-4	A1/B1 (95/5)
21	(21)	II-2 (0.5)	III-2 (0.2)		DBN (0.02)	W-1	A1/B1 (95/5)
22	(22)	II-1 (0.6)	III-1 (0.5)		TPI (0.03)	W-1	A1/B1 (80/20)
23	(23)	II-11 (0.6)	III-11 (0.7)		TPSA (0.02)	W-2	A1/B1 (90/10)
24	(24)	II-15 (0.2)	III-15 (0.3)	a1 (0.1)	HEP (0.01)	W-2	A3/B2 (80/20)
25	(25)	II-2 (0.4)	III-2 (0.4)	TPST (0.1)	TPI (0.03)	W-3	A2/B1 (90/10)

TABLE 6

Example No.	Resin (10 g)	Acid Generator (II) (g)	Acid Generator (III) (g)	Others (g)	Base (g)	Surfactant (0.03 g)	Weight Ratio of Solvent
26	(26)	II-12 (1)	III-12 (0.1)		DIA (0.01)	W-3	A4/B1 (90/10)
27	(27)	II-17 (0.6)	III-17 (0.15)		DIA (0.007)	W-4	A1/B1 (50/50)
28	(28)	II-1 (0.4)	III-1 (0.4)		DBN (0.02)	W-4	A1/B1 (90/10)
29	(29)	II-1 (0.7)	III-1 (0.7)	LCB (1)	TPI (0.03)	W-1	A5/B2 (90/10)
30	(30)	II-14 (0.8)	III-14 (0.2)		TPI (0.02)	W-1	A1/B1 (95/5)
31	(31)	II-14 (0.7)	III-14 (0.7)		TPI (0.03)	W-2	A1/B1 (90/10)
32	(32)	II-1 (0.5)	III-1 (0.3)		TPI (0.03)	W-2	A1/B1 (95/5)
33	(33)	II-1 (0.5)	III-1 (0.3)	a5 (0.2)	TPI (0.03)	W-3	A1/B1 (95/5)
34	(34)	II-4 (0.5)	III-4 (0.3)		DBN (0.02)	W-3	A1/B1 (95/5)
35	(35)	II-16 (0.2)	III-16 (0.2)		TPI (0.03)	W-4	A1/B1 (80/20)
36	(36)	II-1 (0.6)	III-1 (0.15)		DIA (0.01)	W-4	A1/B1 (80/20)
37	(37)	II-1 (0.1)	III-1 (0.7)		TPI (0.03)	W-4	A1/B1 (95/5)
38	(38)	II-8 (0.4)	III-8 (0.6)		DCMA (0.01)	W-4	A1/B1 (95/5)
39	(39)	II-13 (0.7)	III-13 (0.3)		TPI (0.02)	W-4	A1/B1 (95/5)
40	(40)	II-8 (0.5)	III-8 (0.5)		TPI (0.03)	W-4	A1/B1 (95/5)

Example No.	Resin (10 g)	Acid Generator (II) (g)	Acid Generator (III) (g)	Others (g)	Base (g)	Surfactant (0.03 g)	Weight Ratio of Solvent
41	(41)	II-2 (0.5)	III-2 (0.2)		DBN (0.02)	W-1	A1/B1 (95/5)
42	(42)	II-1 (0.6)	III-1 (0.5)		TPI (0.03)	W-1	A1/B1 (80/20)
43	(43)	II-11 (0.6)	III-11 (0.7)		TPSA (0.02)	W-2	A1/B1 (90/10)
44	(44)	II-15 (0.2)	III-15 (0.3)	a1 (0.1)	HEP (0.01)	W-2	A3/B2 (80/20)
45	(45)	II-2 (0.4)	III-2 (0.4)	TPST (0.1)	TPI (0.03)	W-3	A2/B1 (90/10)
46	(46)	II-12 (1)	III-12 (0.1)		DIA (0.01)	W-3	A4/B1 (90/10)
47	(47)	II-17 (0.6)	III-17 (0.15)		DIA (0.007)	W-4	A1/B1 (50/50)
48	(48)	II-1 (0.4)	III-1 (0.4)		DBN (0.02)	W-4	A1/B1 (90/10)
49	(49)	II-1 (0.7)	III-1 (0.7)	LCB (1)	TPI (0.03)	W-1	A5/B2 (90/10)
50	(50)	II-14 (0.8)	III-14 (0.2)		TPI (0.02)	W-1	A1/B1 (95/5)

TABLE 7

Example No.	Resin (10 g)	Acid Generator (II) (g)	Acid Generator (III) (g)	Others (g)	Base (g)	Surfactant (0.03 g)	Weight Ratio of Solvent
51	(51)	II-14 (0.7)	III-14 (0.7)		TPI (0.03)	W-2	A1/B1 (90/10)
52	(52)	II-1 (0.5)	III-1 (0.3)		TPI (0.03)	W-2	A1/B1 (95/5)
53	(53)	II-1 (0.5)	III-1 (0.3)	a5 (0.2)	TPI (0.03)	W-3	A1/B1 (95/5)
54	(54)	II-4 (0.5)	III-4 (0.3)		DBN (0.02)	W-3	A1/B1 (95/5)
55	(55)	II-16 (0.2)	III-16 (0.2)		TPI (0.03)	W-4	A1/B1 (80/20)
56	(56)	II-1 (0.6)	III-1 (0.15)		DIA (0.01)	W-4	A1/B1 (80/20)
57	(57)	II-1 (0.1)	III-1 (0.7)		TPI (0.03)	W-4	A1/B1 (95/5)
58	(58)	II-8 (0.4)	III-8 (0.6)		DCMA (0.01)	W-4	A1/B1 (95/5)
59	(59)	II-13 (0.7)	III-13 (0.3)		TPI (0.02)	W-4	A1/B1 (95/5)
60	(60)	II-8 (0.5)	III-8 (0.5)		TPI (0.03)	W-4	A1/B1 (95/5)
61	(61)	II-2 (0.5)	III-2 (0.2)		DBN (0.02)	W-1	A1/B1 (95/5)
62	(62)	II-1 (0.6)	III-1 (0.5)		TPI (0.03)	W-1	A1/B1 (80/20)
63	(63)	II-11 (0.6)	III-11 (0.7)		TPSA (0.02)	W-2	A1/B1 (90/10)
64	(64)	II-15 (0.2)	III-15 (0.3)	a1 (0.1)	HEP (0.01)	W-2	A3/B2 (80/20)
65	(65)	II-2 (0.4)	III-2 (0.4)	TPST (0.1)	TPI (0.03)	W-3	A2/B1 (90/10)

Example No.	Resin (10 g)	Acid Generator (II) (g)	Acid Generator (III) (g)	Others (g)	Base (g)	Surfactant (0.03 g)	Weight Ratio of Solvent
66	(66)	II-12 (1)	III-12 (0.1)		DIA (0.01)	W-3	A4/B1 (90/10)
67	(1)	II-1 (1)	III-15 (0.2)		DBN (0.02)	W-1	A1 (100)
68	(3)	II-8 (0.3)	III-19 (0.3)		TPI (0.03)	W-1	A1 (100)
69	(4)	II-10 (0.6)	III-23 (0.4)		TPSA (0.02)	W-2	A1/B1 (80/20)
70	(6)	II-9 (0.2)	III-25 (0.2)	a1 (0.1)	HEP (0.01)	W-2	A1/B1 (80/20)
71	(7)	II-19 (0.2)	III-15 (0.1)	TPST (0.1)	TPI (0.03)	W-3	A1/B2 (80/20)
72	(11)	II-11 (0.1)	III-46 (0.3)		DIA (0.01)	W-3	A1/B2 (80/20)
73	(13)	II-14 (0.3)	III-40 (0.3)		DIA (0.007)	W-4	A3/B2 (80/20)
74	(14)	II-16 (0.7)	III-38 (0.3)		DBN (0.02)	W-4	A2/B2 (90/10)
75	(15)	II-17 (0.2)	III-33 (0.5)	LCB (1)	TPI (0.03)	W-1	A1/B4 (95/5)

TABLE 8

Example No.	Resin (10 g)	Acid Generator (II) (g)	Acid Generator (III) (g)	Others (g)	Base (g)	Surfactant (0.03 g)	Weight Ratio of Solvent
76	(26)	II-20 (0.3)	III-32 (0.5)		TPI (0.02)	W-1	A1 (100)
77	(31)	II-10 (0.2)	III-23 (0.3)		TPI (0.03)	W-2	A1/B1 (80/20)
78	(35)	II-9 (0.15)	III-42 (0.3)		TPI (0.03)	W-2	A1/B1 (80/20)
79	(42)	II-8 (0.2)	III-60 (0.2)	a5 (0.2)	TPI (0.03)	W-3	A1 (100)
80	(3)	II-11 (0.3)	III-40 (0.3)		DBN (0.02)	W-3	A1/A4 (95/5)
Comp. Ex.							
1	(1)	II-2 (0.5)			DBN (0.02)	W-1	A1/B1 (95/5)
2	(1)		III-2 (0.2)		DBN (0.02)	W-1	A1/B1 (95/5)
3	(1)	II-2 (0.5)	III-2 (0.2)		DBN (0.02)		A1/B1 (95/5)
4	(1)	II-2 (0.5)	III-2 (0.2)			W-1	A1 (100)

The abbreviations in the Tables are as follows.

LCB: t-Butyl lithocholate

TPST: Triphenylsulfonium perfluorobutanesulfonate

DBN: 1,5-Diazabicyclo[4.3.0]nona-5-ene

TPI: 2,4,5-Triphenylimidazole

TPSA: Triphenylsulfonium acetate

HEP: N-Hydroxyethyl piperidine

DIA: 2,6-Diisopropylaniline

DCMA: Dicyclohexylmethanamine

W-1: Megafac F176 (manufactured by Dainippon Chemicals and Ink Co., Ltd., fluorine-based)

W-2: Megafac R08 (manufactured by Dainippon Ink & Chemicals, Co., Ltd., fluorine-based and silicon-based)

W-3: Polysiloxane polymer KP-341 (manufactured by Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd.)

W-4: Troy Sol S-366 (manufactured by Troy Chemical Inc.)

The abbreviations of the solvents are as follows. In the case where a plurality of solvents are used, the ratio is described in weight ratio in the Tables.

A1: Propylene glycol methyl ether acetate

A2: 2-Heptanone

A3: Ethylethoxy propionate

A4: γ -Butyrolactone

A5: Cyclohexanone

A6: Butyl acetate

B1: Propylene glycol methyl ether

B2: Ethyl lactate

Image evaluation

(1) DOF (defocus latitude)

ARC25 anti-reflection coating manufactured by Brewer Science Co. was coated on a silicon substrate subjected to treatment with hexamethyl disilazane in a uniform thickness of 600 Å with a spin coater, the substrate was dried on a hot plate at 100°C for 90 seconds, and then dried by heating at 190°C for 240 seconds.

Thereafter, each photosensitive composition was coated on the substrate with a spin coater, dried for 90 seconds at 130°C, thereby a resist film having a thickness of 0.40 µm was obtained.

Exposure was performed on the resist film through a mask with an ArF excimer laser stepper (ISI Co., NA: 0.6 ($\sigma = 0.75$, 2/3 zonal illumination)), and the resist film was heated on a hot plate immediately after exposure for 90 seconds at 130°C. Further, the resist was subjected to development with a 2.38 wt% tetramethylammonium hydroxide aqueous solution at 23°C for 60 seconds, rinsed with pure water for 30 seconds and dried, thereby a resist pattern was obtained. Defocus latitude of 0.13 µm in exposure amount required to reproduce 0.13 µm line-and-space (1/1) was observed.

(2) Side lobe margin

ARC25 anti-reflection coating manufactured by Brewer Science Co. was coated on a silicon substrate treated with

hexamethyl disilazane in a uniform thickness of 600 Å with a spin coater, the substrate was dried on a hot plate at 100°C for 90 seconds, and then dried by heating at 190°C for 240 seconds.

Thereafter, each photosensitive composition was coated on the substrate with a spin coater, dried for 90 seconds at 130°C, thereby a resist film having a thickness of 0.40 µm was obtained.

Exposure was performed on the resist film through a half tone phase shift mask having transmittance of 6% with an ArF excimer laser stepper (ISI Co., NA: 0.6), and the resist film was heated on a hot plate immediately after exposure for 90 seconds at 130°C.

Further, the resist was subjected to development with a 2.38 wt% tetramethylammonium hydroxide aqueous solution at 23°C for 60 seconds, rinsed with pure water for 30 seconds and dried, thereby a contact hole pattern was obtained.

The exposure amount to open a contact hole of 0.18 µm with the dimension of mask size 0.20 µm of duty ratio 1/2 is taken optimal exposure amount E_{op} , and the relationship with the exposure amount E_s which causes side lobe by exposure over optimal exposure amount is obtained from the following equation, and this value is taken as side lobe margin. The higher the value, the higher is the side lobe resistance.

$$\text{Side lobe margin (\%)} = [(E_s - E_{op}) / E_{op}] \times 100$$

(3) Particles

After allowing to stand the prepared photosensitive composition at 4°C for one week, the number of particles having

a particle size of 0.2 μm or more present in the solution with a particle counter manufactured by Lyon Co.

TABLE 9

Example No.	DOF (μm)	Side Lobe Margin (%)	Particle
1	0.6	23	<5
2	0.6	25	10
3	0.7	27	<5
4	0.8	34	<5
5	0.7	29	<5
6	0.8	30	<5
7	0.7	28	<5
8	0.8	32	<5
9	0.7	27	<5
10	0.7	26	<5
11	0.7	25	<5
12	0.8	32	<5
13	0.7	23	<5
14	0.8	33	<5
15	0.8	29	<5
16	0.8	35	<5
17	0.9	34	<5
18	0.7	34	<5
19	0.8	35	<5
20	0.8	38	<5
21	0.8	39	<5
22	0.8	40	<5
23	0.8	40	<5
24	0.9	45	<5
25	0.9	44	<5

TABLE 10

Example No.	DOF (μm)	Side Lobe Margin (%)	Particle
26	0.8	38	<5
27	0.8	41	<5
28	0.7	37	<5
29	0.8	38	<5
30	0.7	37	<5
31	0.8	37	<5
32	0.8	38	<5
33	0.9	41	<5
34	0.9	40	<5
35	0.8	37	<5
36	0.7	36	<5
37	0.8	37	<5
38	0.7	35	<5
39	0.8	36	<5
40	0.7	35	<5
41	0.7	35	<5
42	0.8	38	<5
43	0.8	37	<5
44	0.9	45	<5
45	0.9	46	<5
46	0.9	46	<5
47	0.8	39	<5
48	0.8	40	<5
49	0.8	41	<5
50	0.8	39	<5

TABLE 11

Example No.	DOF (μm)	Side Lobe Margin (%)	Particle
51	0.8	38	<5
52	0.8	37	<5
53	0.8	38	<5
54	0.8	37	<5
55	0.8	38	<5
56	0.8	39	<5
57	0.7	39	<5
58	0.7	38	<5
59	0.7	38	<5
60	0.7	38	<5
61	0.7	39	<5
62	0.7	41	<5
63	0.7	40	<5
64	0.9	45	<5
65	0.9	48	<5
66	0.6	41	<5
67	0.8	36	<5
68	0.9	35	<5
69	0.8	40	<5
70	0.9	38	<5
71	0.8	39	<5
72	0.9	37	<5
73	0.8	41	<5
74	0.9	35	<5
75	0.8	36	<5

TABLE 12

Example No.	DOF (μm)	Side Lobe Margin (%)	Particle
76	0.8	35	<5
77	0.9	36	<5
78	0.8	37	<5
79	0.9	38	<5
80	0.8	37	<5
Comparative Example			
1	0.5	18	<5
2	0.4	15	<5
3	0.5	20	98
4	0.2	8	<5

From the above results of the Table 9 to 12, the following facts can be seen.

The compositions of Examples 1 to 80 in the present invention are broad in defocus latitude, excellent in side lobe resistance, and particles are hardly generated.

On the other hand, the compositions in Comparative Examples 1 to 4 are inferior to the compositions of the present invention in defocus latitude, side lobe resistance, and particle generation.

[Effect of the Invention]

The positive photosensitive composition of the present invention is broad in defocus latitude when zonal illumination is used, side lobe is difficult to be caused when pattern formation is performed with a half tone phase shift mask, and particles are hardly generated in aging storage.

[Designation of Document] Abstract

[ABSTRACT]

[SUBJECT] A positive photosensitive composition, which is broad in defocus latitude when zonal illumination is used, side lobe is difficult to be caused when pattern formation is performed with a half tone phase shift mask, and particles are hardly generated in aging storage, is provided.

[MEANS OF SOLUTION] A positive photosensitive composition comprises: (A) an acid generator capable of generating an acid upon irradiation with one of an actinic ray and a radiation; and (B) a resin having a monocyclic or polycyclic alicyclic hydrocarbon structure and capable of decomposing by the action of an acid to increase the solubility in an alkali developer, wherein the acid generator (A) comprises at least one compound having a phenacylsulfonium salt structure and at least one sulfonium salt compound not having an aromatic ring.

[SELECTED FIGURE] None